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WEEKLY NOTES.

CONGRESSIONAL business has not moved with much rapidity thus far, and there is little likelihood that the Christmas holidays will find any large amount of it transacted. The Democrats of the House have wasted a good deal of time in the attempt to pass a joint rule to regulate the electoral count, by giving either House the right to exclude the disputed vote of any State. It is true that the Republicans adopted a similar rule some ten years ago, but it was a part of the high-handed course of political legislation which helped to deprive that party of the nearly unlimited confidence it enjoyed after the war. Are the Democrats so infatuated as to adopt as their own the blunders which the Republican party committed, but have now retracted? If they adopt this blunder, they will find the precedent of 1868 will avail them nothing before the country. Between us and that date lie the first two months of 1877; and any party that has learnt nothing from the suspense and anxiety of those two months does not understand the American people. Besides, this blunder would be more inexcusable in the Democrats than in the Republicans. That the party which lays chief emphasis on the national authority should sometimes have overshot the mark, was to be expected. But that the party which stands for the rights of States, should legislate to place their votes at the mercy of either House of Congress, would be an unpardonable sacrifice of their own principles for the sake of a possible partisan advantage. Besides, why waste the time of Congress upon a dispute whose termination can be of no value at present, and may be a positive disadvantage to the Democrats themselves four or eight years hence?

In some quarters we hear the usual proposals for a change in the election of the President, and even zealous Republican papers favor such a change as would leave the matter to the direct vote of the people. We think this suggestion anything but wise. It will not do to refer the matter to the direct vote of the people until we have much better security for the honesty of the count in every State. At present the unfairness of the counting in certain States inflicts a certain amount of wrong and injury upon the whole country, but there is a limit to the amount. It can go no farther than to affect the electoral vote of that single State. It may be altogether powerless to affect the general result, and in the great majority of the States there is "a fair vote and an honest count." But under the new rule the States in which there is no such fairness might manage to overbalance the vote of all the others, by returning majorities far greater than the relative strength of the parties would justify. There are great dangers from unfairness under the present system, but those dangers would be vastly increased by the change proposed.

Why not make the change in the other direction,—in that of the intention of the authors of the Constitution? Let the electors meet in national convention instead of State colleges. Let them take an oath that they are free from pledges to any particular candidate, and are at liberty to vote for any citizen whom they may think fit for the place, and that they will exercise their choice to secure such a man. And then let them make the choice. The gain of this plan would be that the people would be obliged to select their best men for such an important trust, that the noise and excitement of

political nominating conventions would pass away, and that the Presidential campaign, being a struggle between parties and not between candidates, would be relieved of its offensively personal character. Each party, to be sure, would have to forego the advantage of having a popular candidate in the field, but then that would be a loss common to both.

THE Republican leadership in the House seems to have gone "into commission" since Mr. Garfield's withdrawal. It was the fine courtesy and frankness of the President-elect in that capacity, especially during the memorable extra session, which first suggested him as the right man for the White House. Next to Mr. Garfield came Mr. Conger of Michigan,—*magno intervallo sequitur*. Mr. Conger's attempt at leadership stood out in broad contrast to that of Mr. Garfield. The latter was always thinking of the public business; the former of winning a party advantage. Mr. Garfield strove to find some common basis of reasonable agreement between hostile parties, and to diminish the asperities of party feeling. Mr. Conger enjoyed nothing so much as to give such a turn to the debate as would make twenty Democrats jump to their feet in a rage to reply. Manifestly, the Michigan man is not the man to take the empty place. So far it seems as if Mr. Robeson of New Jersey will be the new leader. He certainly put himself at the head of the party during the first week of the present session, and in a way which reminds us of Mr. Garfield.

GENERAL HAZEN takes the place at the head of the weather bureau, and is responsible for the character of the weather for the future, and for our protection from excessive importations from Manitoba and other inclement regions. There was a considerable pressure on the President in behalf of two other candidates. The scientific people wanted him to promote Professor Cleveland Abbe, who has done the scientific work of the bureau under its former head. It would have been quite in the line of Civil Service Reform to make this appointment, and it would have given pleasure to a large body of our most intelligent citizens, who regard Professor Abbe as unfairly treated in the administration of the Bureau. But this gentleman gave offence to his official superiors by some steps he took to secure his own appointment. He has resigned since General Hazen's appointment was announced. The other candidate was General Miles, who was the candidate of the army. But the President was determined to have his own way as regards General Hazen, while by the superannuation of General Ord—the latter much against his will—General Miles is promoted to the rank of Major General. It is unfortunate for this Civil Service Reform Administration that there is a cavil against both these promotions, as due to personal and family influence. Nothing of the sort could be said of General Howard's appointment to the command at West Point. He is a man who has made some bad blunders in his time, but he has never forfeited the public confidence in his uprightness and purity of motive. No other appointment the President could make would give pleasure to so large a body of the American people as this one will. And there is every reason to hope that General Howard's influence will be calculated to counteract some of the worst mischiefs in the moral atmosphere of our military monastery on the Hudson.

It seems that Mr. Wood is prepared to risk the whole success of the measures for funding the debt about to fall due, upon the possibility of floating a three per cent. bond. He is not willing to leave the matter to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury. He wants Congress to enact that the Government will give that and no higher rate of interest. This is to be regretted, not merely because it implies the risk of failure where the Treasury cannot afford to fail, but because it involves a much longer term for the bonds. Mr. Sherman proposes to redeem half of the outstanding bonds with Treasury notes to fall due inside ten years, and the other half with a fifteen-year bond. Mr. Wood has accepted half of Mr. Sherman's plan; but as the bonds he would issue will bear only three per cent. interest and are to be sold at par, they must run for a much longer period than fifteen years. The only inducement to take four per cents at par or premium, is found in the facilities they furnish for a nearly permanent investment. But the issue of such long-time bonds would compel the Treasury after ten years to buy in open market the quantity required each year for the Sinking Fund. It would preserve the present element of periodical interference with the financial situation, without securing any real advantage to the Government. It seems to us that Mr. Sherman's proposal is the more sensible one. We especially value the facilities both he and Mr. Wood offer for small investors to put their savings into a Government security, as the first step towards a system of Post Office Savings Banks.

MUCH as Republicans need a few more members of the United States Senate, we should regret their acquisition by any such process as the bargain now proposed in Tennessee. It will be remembered that the Republican Governor was elected by a plurality over two Democratic candidates, and that not one of the three parties has a majority in the Legislature. The two Democratic factions have divided on the question of the treatment of the State debt. It is with those who favor a partial repudiation that the Republicans are to make an arrangement for the Senatorship. If it were merely to elect any ordinary Republican, there might be less to object. But the candidate proposed is the new Republican Governor, and the arrangement contemplates the filling the executive chair with a repudiating Democrat, thus giving the whole control of the State Government into the hands of the dishonest faction. We are surprised that the plan finds any countenance among Northern Republicans. It is one of the most shameless bargains of recent years. It is the sale of a State into the hands of men who are, by their very principles, unworthy of the trust. And yet newspapers which can hardly speak of a Greenbacker without insinuating that he is a thief, look on with complacency, and deny that the arrangement involves any complicity with the acts of the "Low Taxation" party in Tennessee.

THE amendment to the Constitution for which there is the most urgent necessity, is the repeal of the clause forbidding the national courts to entertain suits of private citizens against a State. That clause,—the Eleventh Amendment,—has been the cloak for more dishonesty and the cause of more national dishonor, than has any provision in the fundamental law of any civilized country. There is at this moment a movement for its repeal, and as more than two-thirds of the States have never taken any unfair advantage of the provision, we see no reason to believe that this could not be carried. The foreign holders of some repudiated State bonds are helping to bring the matter home to the national conscience.

SECRETARY SCHURZ has written a long letter to Governor Long of Massachusetts, to impugn the accuracy of the speeches and resolutions at a meeting held in Boston, to express sympathy for the Poncas. He denies that he is responsible for the wrong in question, since the act of Congress under which the removal was effected was passed before his entry upon office. And he claims

that he was among the first to point out the wrong involved, having done so before his Eastern critics took the matter up. He makes a defence of his present inaction upon the same lines as in his recent annual report.

All this has much force against some too sweeping criticisms of Mr. Schurz's administration of the Interior Department. But we fail to see where it touches the main point of the charges brought against his policy. The law for the removal of the Poncas was made conditional upon their consent. The Secretary admits that no such consent was ever obtained in the form prescribed by law; that the strongest opposition to removal was developed in the tribe; and that after a portion had gone, government troops were despatched to the reservation to compel the rest to leave. The visit of the chiefs to Washington opened his eyes to the injustice of the transaction, and he claims that he urged that "compensation" be made them. What "compensation?" Why payment for the houses, agricultural implements, and similar property, which the Interior Department persuaded them to abandon in Dacotah, by giving them an unwarranted pledge that they should be paid for. They never have been paid, he admits. What else did the Secretary do for them? He arrested some of those who had escaped, and was only stopped by the courts in denying them their liberties. He opposed their obtaining their rights by every means at his command. He penned them in by his agents in a country where they suffered all the horrors inflicted on the Seminoles in their transfer to the same deadly region. He arrested their best friend, when he dared to visit their reservation and to disclose their dissatisfaction. To the malaria of their surroundings, which has reduced their numbers from eight to four hundred, he added the malaria of official misrepresentation, till their manly resistance to wrong was crushed in their hearts, as the energy was destroyed in their bodies. And he now poses before the country, boasting of the last and greatest crime against the Poncas,—that they have been made to acquiesce in their lot, in the loss of their homes, in the destruction of half their number, through their utter hopelessness of justice at the white man's hands. *Solitudinem faciunt; pacem appellant* is the record of such statesmen as Mr. Schurz.

THE colored exodus comes to the front again. Those who came Northward last year are doing fairly well in their Northern homes, and are sending back reports which encourage others to come. On the other hand, there is nothing to encourage the colored men to stay in the South. They see no reason to expect that the white people will concede their political equality, or give them the chance to become owners of real property. It is true that the political outrages of a violent kind have ceased; but it was not from these outrages so much as from a hopeless financial position that the negroes fled. They could not buy land, and they could only rent it at an extortionate price, in a country where the possession of land is nearly as indispensable as in Western Ireland. The most industrious of them found that, whatever their exertions, their accounts always balanced wrong at the end of the year. In these respects there is no alleviation of their condition, and therefore they will continue to come northward. A Southerner called upon a gentleman of his acquaintance in Philadelphia a few weeks ago, to say that he was on his way home to his Louisiana plantation, to take matters into his own hands and virtually to work for his living. The scarcity of colored labor, through the exodus, made this a necessity.

SINCE the days when the Scotch-Irish settlers of Pennsylvania insisted that the truest guide to an Indian policy was to be found in the Book of Joshua, we have seen nothing to compare with the expedition which has set out to force its way into the Indian territory, with preaching, praying and hymn-singing to sanctify their invasion of lands to which they neither have nor can secure any legal

rights. For once the Government has been too quick for these marauders, and there seems every reason to expect that their expedition will break up in confusion, rather than face the small body of U. S. cavalry on the other side of the line. Our new Joshuas are not quite so war-like as the old.

THE question of veracity raised by Senator Conkling against Senator Bayard, in his card published in *The Press*, seems to be quite needlessly entangled, both by the former gentleman and by the newspapers. Senator Bayard denied to Senator Conkling that he made the charge reported at the time to two newspapers. We do not think he did well, after his attention had been called to it, to allow a day to pass without a public contradiction of what was inaccurate in that report. He certainly gave Mr. Conkling just ground of offence by so doing. We are surprised that Mr. Bayard should regard the correspondence with Mr. Conkling he publishes as making his case better, when its chief importance is, that it shows he had been long aware of the existence of such a report, and yet had taken no steps to correct it; for we cannot regard his incidental reference to it, in his letter to an assistant Editor of *The Press*, as furnishing such a correction. But he was not bound, so far as we can see, to answer Mr. Conkling's queries by a categorical "Yes" or "No," as that gentleman seems to insist. His answer appears to us quite as explicit as was possible under the circumstances.

We do not pronounce upon the two principal points in controversy. The first is, did Mr. Bayard make the charge, as reported, of Senator Conkling's connection, and that of Secretary Boutwell and Mr. Arthur, with the famous moiety case of Phelps, Dodge & Co? As worded in the report, that charge was certainly most offensive. Our contemporary undertakes to show that he did. It has already shown that the reporter was one in whom it was entitled to place confidence. But even Republicans will ask very clear proof before believing that Senator Bayard has lied in the matter. The secured point is, Supposing Senator Bayard made the somewhat different and less offensive statement contained in his letter to Senator Conkling, was he justified by the facts in evidence? Mr. Conkling stamps this also as false, and it certainly has a suspicious look that the Delaware Senator has to find a portion of his proofs in the columns of *The Sun*.

NEW YORK has at last got rid of her comptroller. John Kelly has failed to secure a renomination at Mayor Cooper's hands, and Allan Campbell reigns in his stead. All New York feels virtuous, down to the very Bohemians. But when the victory is looked at from within, the reasons for congratulation are not so evident. The result was accomplished by a bargain between the Republicans and the anti-Tammany Democrats, and by the defection of four aldermen who owe their political existence to the deposed chief. That these men have acted from high and pure motives, such as a desire for good civic government, no one professes to believe. And in the absence of such motive, there is no security for permanent good government.

For Mr. Kelly the public have no sympathy. He has played the traitor too often to entitle him to complain of treachery. His management of public affairs has been discreditable, although he has had neither the audacity nor the wickedness of Tweed. He has been an insolent bully, with no notion of public spirit or devotion to duty. And he has taken his fall from power with so little dignity, as robs him even of the respect which follows bad rulers into their misfortunes and their privacy. But, after all, the John Kellys are but the exponent of defects in our political system and our political character. They are made possible through the great demands which political duty makes upon the time and attention of the ordinary voter, and through that devotion to mere money-making in our business classes, which renders them remiss as regards

public duties. It is not enough to get rid of John Kelly. It is necessary to exterminate the evil root from which Tweeds and Kellys grow.

GENERAL FITZ-JOHN PORTER's friends have evidently given up the hope of passing the measure for his "relief," which caused such a lively discussion last year. They now propose merely that he be legislated into the retired list, without the back-pay as General since the date of his conviction by the court-martial, which they formerly proposed to give him. General Porter's case has been the theme of so much and such bitter discussion, that it has small chance of being regarded purely on its merits. We think there are two sides to it. The adverse side is that he provoked and perhaps merited his retirement from the service by the unsoldierlike criticisms he uttered upon his superiors in command. The other is, that in this he merely represented a dominant sentiment of the whole army, which was out of sympathy with Pope, and he was taken as a sort of scape-goat for the sins of the multitude. Besides this, he was allowed to continue in active service after the alleged offence of disobedience of orders at Manassas, so that he fought with his usual dash and brilliancy at Antietam before a word was said of bringing him before a court-martial. It is alleged that General Porter has no chance of fair play, because the West has never forgotten or forgiven the failure of the army to cordially support General Pope, who was a Western man. It is pleasant to know, however, that it was a Western member of Congress who proposed and carried through the bill for a re-hearing of the case, which resulted in General Porter's vindication. It was James A. Garfield.

PROFESSOR JOHN W. MEARS, of Hamilton College, suggests in the *Penn Monthly*, that those interested in the study of the higher problems of philosophy in this country, shall celebrate, next year, the centennial of Kant's Kritik. The suggestion is an apt one and should meet with applause. However much subsequent philosophers may have disagreed with the sage of Königsberg, there can be no doubt as to the wonderful influence this speculative reformer exercised on the thought of the world. Schopenhauer and the rest who came after Kant, served but to spread Kant's views and to deepen his influence. Professor Mears proposes that the Kant celebration be made an adjunct to one of the many educational gatherings that are held every summer, and that suggestive topics, such as the higher problems of philosophy, fortunes of Kant in Great Britain and America, a compendious statement of the main principles of the Kritik, the consideration of the evils of his teachings—be treated in exhaustive papers by our best scholars. We hope the suggestion will be adopted and carried to a conclusion; and that the focus of all eyes will be fixed upon *Die Kritik der Reine Vernunft* and its author.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH's influence and work is evidently on the increase, as it is attracting attention and comment in new quarters. A Toronto correspondent of the *St. James Gazette*, writes to that paper to assure its readers and the British public, that Mr. Goldwin Smith's antagonism to Great Britain has found but small favor, and that the number of Canadians who believe as he does, concerning the future of Canada, is small. Were the correspondent's news correct, his letter never would have been written. It is the strength of Mr. Smith's following, and the rapid growth of the views he holds, that alarms those Canadians who still believe the future of Canada to be bound up with the future of England. It is strange to the onlooker that so many of our neighbors will not read aright the signs of the times. The future of Canada, no matter whether she remains under the nominal control of the mother country, achieves her independence, or is annexed to the United States, is inseparably the future of the American continent. Hers can never be the future of England and the monarchies of the Old

World. The ties that bind her to England to-day, are those of sentiment, not interest. Her destiny lies with us, and nothing that regretful Britons within her borders can do will change that result. Though this is not accepted by Canadians of the class of the *Gazette's* correspondent, it is foreseen and openly hinted where the *Gazette* is published. The last effort England made to link Canada to herself was the appointment of the Governor-General, or rather the mission of her Royal Highness, the Princess Louise. That this effort has been a failure, is abundantly evidenced by the Canadian press. The successor to the Marquis of Lorne will not probably be as brilliant nor as popular a man as Lord Dufferin. The next five years will produce a marked change in the future of Canada. Meanwhile, the *Bystander* and Mr. Goldwin Smith will wax in influence.

THE strength of the Land League in its control of the Irish people is admitted now even by those who wish to believe that it is a system of terrorism by which the people have been dragooned into compliance. It is the London *Times'* Dublin correspondent who pronounces that a new government has been set up in Ireland, with the full and united support of the people, who leave the ordinary methods of obtaining legal redress to find it in the unauthorized and even illegal courts of the Land League. The story of the struggle of Mr. W. Bence Jones, of Cork county, to get his cattle over to Bristol, is a fine illustration of the situation. Fortunately we have the two versions of it; that of "terrorism" as given by Mr. Jones himself, who thinks he has been a model landlord, and that his laborers would stay with him, and his tenants pay the old rents, if it were not for fear of the League. But the *Times'* correspondent tells a different story. He finds a general exasperation of public feeling against Mr. Jones throughout the neighborhood. The steamship companies of Cork and Dublin dare not take his cattle on board, for fear of losing all their customers: only the efforts of the police can get them forwarded by rail; and only by sending them the length of the Island to Belfast, can he get them transported to England.

If this state of things is to continue, "the landlords must go." No arrangement for the security of private rights can be maintained to the permanent destruction of the public peace. Whatever rights England may have given the landlords, it was always assumed that these are to be consistent with the maintenance of public order. Indeed, the landlords were sent into Ireland to bind it closer to England's rule, just as the Irish established church was created for the same purpose. Both have managed to deepen and intensify the alienation. The church, for that reason, has been abolished. Landlordism must follow it. It is only a question of terms.

THE great danger of the Irish situation is that of a popular outbreak against the British Government. The situation offers many opportunities for such an outbreak. The forcible detention of Mr. Parnell and other indicted members of Parliament in Dublin on the opening of Parliament, presents such an opportunity. And, if even a riot were to occur in one corner of the Island, it might, in the present excitable temper of the Irish people, cause a general uprising against the military and the police. Such a movement could end only in calamity to the whole country. It is not in such a situation as the present that Ireland can expect to cope with the military resources of the British Empire. Those who are most anxious to see her sundered from that Empire, are equally anxious that no armed movement shall take place at the present time. They are about to make their appeal to the whole Irish people, asking them to forbear any acts which might serve as an excuse for violence on the part of the government and the Ascendancy party. In so doing they are keeping the Land League to its objects, for the strength of the movement is in its careful abstention from acts which would palliate the use of soldiery in the old style

of peace preservation in Ireland. It is in organization and the force of organized public opinion, that the movement has a strength not enjoyed by any previously undertaken.

When its land war is over, it would be well to use the same organization to enforce the industrial portion of the platform which the American branches of the Land League have adopted. This was attempted more than once by voluntary Leagues for the encouragement of Irish manufactures, but these broke down, because O'Connell treated them with nothing but ridicule. But the Irish people have learnt more about the causes of their poverty than the Agitator ever knew. One of the chief objects of the Home Rule movement is to secure a Protective Tariff for Ireland. Let the League enact one, and "Boycott" every tradesman who sells an English article with which an Irish one is in competition. It has done wonders by force of voluntary organization in its present sphere of labor. It might effect equally great results, if it were to set itself to remove the root of the poverty of Irish towns.

THE English Ministry evidently are not prepared to abandon legal methods for the treatment of Irish wrongs. Mr. Forster, it is true, seems to have lost his head, and calls for coercion. Mr. Forster is a well-meaning gentleman, but all his skill in devising uniform measures of legislation has not stood him in much stead since he has been face to face with great practical difficulties. His Quaker education has not fitted him to sympathize with or make any allowances for a great popular storm. He is as much out of place in the Irish Secretaryship as he would be in a field of battle. "Why do you not enforce the law?" he screams to the Irish magistracy, each of them a squire under police protection, and trembling for his life when he ventures out of his house. How "coercion" would serve the purpose, we fail to see. It means little more than the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act. But you cannot arrest a whole people; and the strength of the movement is not in the leaders, but in the people. Arrests might make them more violent. Only concessions will abate their indignation.

Mr. Gladstone is right in resisting coercion. He is still more right if he means, as English Liberal papers hint, to make his new Land Law a vital issue for his ministry. He will not let the Peers throw it out or rob it of its force by amendments, without dissolving Parliament and appealing to the country. If he should be sustained, the Peers will give way, as they did in 1832. And he will be sustained.

In comparison with Irish, English matters have been rather tame and uninteresting for months past. The only burning question is that of Ritualism. The Lord Chamberlain seems bent on making it easy for Mr. Gladstone to repeal the Public Worship Regulation Act, to which he offered such earnest resistance during the late administration. They have two Ritualists in jail for contumacy, already. In point of law the Ritualists are wrong, just as the Irish tenants are. But they are showing much of the Irish tenants' spirit, in their solid and united resistance. And if they have the courage of their convictions, they will force a reconsideration of an intolerant and vexatious statute.

On the Continent, France and Germany are still the only centres of interest, and in neither are there large questions under debate. Gambetta has done well to repress that wasp Rochefort, by showing that he begged for mercy from the Provisional Government, and declared that he had not been implicated in the doings of the Commune. As he has been posing as the great leader and literary champion of that party, it is to be hoped that this will put an end to his power for mischief.

In Germany the Christian-Socialist war upon the Jews still continues; but, as we should have expected, is wakening up opposi-

tion in the solid and sensible classes of the people. A majority of the German cities unite in protest against the movement, and it is altogether certain that whatever temporary annoyance it may cause the Jews, it will do them no harm as regards their civil and social rights. Chaplain Stoecker is a man born out of his time. He should have been a contemporary and coadjutor of Pepperkorn in the opening year of the sixteenth century, to be pilloried by Crotus Rubianus in the *Epistolae Obscurarum Virorum*.

It seems we were wrong in speaking of the Empress Augusta as a Catholic. She is a princess of the Saxe-Weimar house, which, since the Reformation has always been Protestant and Lutheran. It is not she, but her Imperial husband who is generally regarded as the patron of the Crusade.

M. DE LESSEPS is showing that he has not lost the diplomatic skill which served him so well in the negotiations with regard to the Suez Canal. Finding in Mr. Hayes the most outspoken opponent of the proposal to construct a Panama Canal by means of European capital, and under control of a European company, he has managed to detach from the Cabinet one of its ablest members, Secretary Thompson, and has induced him to take the position at the head of the company's American branch. Of Mr. Thompson's business capacities we do not speak so much as of the fact that he is thoroughly American; a representative man who shares even in American prejudices and "techiness." His presence in the company will be a guarantee that it is animated by no hostility to our national interests.

As for the canal itself, we are not so hopeful as are its friends. We do not think it can be cut through the Isthmus for the sum they specify. We do not think that they can induce the people of Europe and America to invest so largely in this speculation. Nor do we think the commerce would be large enough to remunerate the stockholders for their outlay. But M. de Lesseps is a man of genius, who can do things not possible to other men. By all means let him cut the canal, if he can. American interests could not be better promoted than by his success.

OUR judgment does not go with the Philadelphia Citizens' Committee, as regards the mode of political procedure they have seen fit to adopt. At their last Saturday's meeting two proposals were before them. The first was to assume the powers of a nominating convention, to select men for the three city offices to be filled in February, and to ask their ward committees to send up names of candidates for Councils. The other was to call nominating conventions of the usual sort, under the auspices of the Committee. Of the two, we agree with the Committee in thinking the former the better. But we believe that a better way than either would have been to exert their power first to secure good nominations from the conventions of the Republican party, and, failing that, to support the Democratic nominees, if they were good enough; and if not, to put independent candidates into the field. The action actually taken converts the new movement into a third party, for which there was no urgent necessity. It will alarm a large body of Republican voters, by threatening us with a Democratic city government. And it is not unlikely to end in the Committee's entire discomfiture, as was the result with the Reform Club.

It must be remembered that, while there is great room for reform in several branches of the city government, there is no popular alarm on the subject. It is admitted on all hands that the government has improved rather than deteriorated during the past four years. There is, therefore, not the popular urgency for reforms which would warrant a breaking up of the old party. The strength which this committee has behind it is at most the 17,000 Republicans who voted for Mr. Pattison. Does it expect those 17,000 to elect a new city government and Councils?

THE ANNUAL DISPUTE WITH CANADA.

THE message of President Hayes has stirred up anew the fires of argument between this country and our neighbors to the north of the St. Lawrence. In addition to the displeasure that they feel over the expressions of the President, they are just now subjected to additional discomfort in the official utterances from Downing Street. Lord Granville and the government of Mr. Gladstone are in complete harmony with the wishes and claims of the United States, a feeling prompted perhaps by an earnest desire—that was never more deep-seated in England than at present—to placate this country. England has always shown herself hostile to Canada whenever the alternative was trouble with the United States. To please the Canadians she will not jeopardize her friendly relations with this country, and to-day no sympathy is shown in London with Canadian discontent at English friendliness toward the powers at Washington. The London *Times* cordially endorses the utterances of the government, anent the fishery dispute, and the London *Standard* is no less pronounced against Canada. The British Parliament is of the same temper. All this shapes the outlook in bitter perspective to our Canadian friends who, bolstered by the false position assumed by Lord Salisbury, considered their case impregnable and one not to be overthrown by documents from Washington.

In a measure, the press of Canada has done a good deal to render English endorsement of the American position incomprehensible to Canadians, by mis-stating the case. The Kingston *News*, referring to the affair at Fortune Bay, says: "The American fishermen were violating the Sabbath-day laws of Newfoundland as well as offending the scruples of a God-fearing people, but Mr. Evarts declares that the intruders are released from the operation of the local law by the Treaty of Washington. Such a contention is contrary to every principle of construction and to the law of nations. It was never intended to supersede the local laws of the colonies by the provisions of the Treaty, for were such the case, the American fishermen might conduct themselves as they pleased on landing in Newfoundland or Canada. The true construction is that which annexes the provisions of the two, and we have no doubt that Sir A. T. Galt will thoroughly post the home Government upon all the arguments leading to that end." That the American fishermen were violating the Sabbath-day laws of Newfoundland is true, that they were offending the scruples of a God-fearing people can hardly be possible, as the testimony taken by the Newfoundland authorities at the request of Lord Salisbury, developed the fact that the dwellers at Fortune Bay themselves fished on Sunday. The American offence in the eyes of the islanders was the superior energy, appliances and success developed by the visitors. It was jealousy—not regard for law—that prompted the destruction of the American nets. And that Mr. Evarts was clearly right in justifying the claim of the "intruders," is made clear in the act of the Newfoundland Parliament accepting the Treaty clauses which declared all laws and acts in conflict with the Treaty as inoperative. Further, it is intended by the laws of nations to supersede at all times local laws of the colonies by provisions of a treaty when they conflict. Otherwise, a treaty entered into between two great powers could be rendered valueless by either at will. The Canadians are hardly desirous, we should suppose, of assuming the position that a treaty made between Great Britain and the United States could be altered by any law passed by Congress or the Parliament of Great Britain. Such an assumption destroys at once all international law. Still less should we suppose them desirous of assuming that a treaty made by Great Britain and the United States could be in any way altered by a law passed by Newfoundland—at best an indirect party to the treaty—any more than by a law passed by the State of Massachusetts. The true construction of a treaty lies only in the concurrent interpretation of the wording of the document by

both parties to it, and a treaty is not altered by local laws that conflict with it any more than by laws that own no relation to its subject matter. A treaty overrides laws passed before the treaty is signed that conflict with it. Laws passed afterward have no effect upon it.

We do not claim that Canada has no cause for complaint against the United States; nor that American fishermen always act up to the letter of the Treaty of Washington. If they have violated what the United States promised they should abide by, Canada has a counter case to present to the Court of Claims, that eventually will be called upon to adjudicate the differences. We shall be glad to have such grievances acted upon. But the Canadian press cannot aid matters, nor prevent the allowing of the just claims of the American fishermen, by mis-stating the law and the fact in one breath. In doing so, they but render greater the surprise with which the inevitable adverse decision of their case will be greeted.

THE REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

THERE is said to be a disposition among some members of Congress to let the matter of Tariff Revision drop. They say the recent election decided that we are to have "no change," and that this expression of the popular will is sufficient to dispose of the matter. The chances that the Eaton Bill will pass this year are regarded as but slim, and in some quarters there is a disposition to adopt that easiest of all policies, the policy of doing nothing.

We regret to see this disposition manifesting itself, and we sincerely hope that it will not prevail in the national councils. We regard it as resting on a gross misinterpretation of the popular verdict. When the people voted against the "change" proposed by the Democrats, they did not vote approval of the details of the existing Tariff. That question was not before them. Had the Democracy confined themselves to the merits of our present Tariff, in their deliverance at Cincinnati, the issue might have been far less unfavorable to them. But they did not. They declared themselves opposed to any Tariff which was not "for revenue only," and thus raised the larger issue upon which the people have just voted. They could not help raising the larger issue. Protectionists, no less than Free Traders, had just declared that they would not stand by the existing Tariff. They had declared that it contained anomalies which call for removal, that a thorough revision of the whole document was an urgent necessity. They supported, jointly and individually, the Eaton Bill for a deliberate revision by a competent commission. This estopped the Democrats from renewing their tactics of 1876. They saw that if they were to make an issue on the Tariff at all, it must be on the general question of Free Trade or Protection. They hoped that even that would be a popular issue, and would win them support in the West. It lost them Indiana.

We regard the disposition to prevent a revision of the Tariff, as nothing less than a breach of faith on the part of every Protectionist who favors that policy. It is true that the action taken a year ago by the Protectionists was not with a special reference to the coming election. They had no reason to expect that the Tariff would play a more prominent part in 1880 than in 1876. They would hardly have courted such prominence for it. They did not know the strength of their own case. They were chiefly anxious to emasculate the Free Trade agitation, by removing from the Tariff the injustices and absurdities upon which that party were harping. But none the less their advocacy of Tariff Revision entered into the struggle, by modifying the whole relation of parties to the subject. And they cannot withdraw from that advocacy without exposing themselves to the charge of playing fast and loose with a great question. Indeed, it would be nothing less than fatal to their cause,

for it would divide their ranks hopelessly, and give the Free Traders the chance they can get in no other way.

Protectionists have far less reason to fear a revision of the Tariff now than they had even a year ago. Then the question had not been tested. There had been no fair presentation of the issue since 1840. It had been obscured in the elections, by side issues and secondary matters, ever since the Democrats in 1844 raised the deluding cry, "Polk, Dallas, and the Tariff of 1842!" But if the recent election showed anything, it showed such a growth of Protectionist feeling as leaves no room for doubt as to the national purpose. The revision of the Tariff might have been dreaded a year ago, lest the principle of Protection should suffer in the alterations to be made. But we now know that a revision in a Protectionist sense is the only revision the country will allow. Protectionists took the risk of favoring a revision while there was a risk. Are they going to fall back from that position now, when all risk has been removed?

If they do they will be pursuing a most unwise course. They will be playing into the hands of their enemies. The Free Trade party in this country owes all the little vitality it possesses to unfortunate and inequitable details of our existing Tariff. A year ago it was visibly frightened by the proposal to correct these defects. If it had been true to its own principles it would have hailed the Eaton Bill as just what the country needed. Instead of that, it put every kind of obstacle in the way. It declared the measure to be a ruse to gain time. It did nothing to facilitate its passage. The Industrial League and the Iron and Steel Association supported the measure with all their influence. The Free Trade Club preserved an ominous silence. It was right to be silent. Why should it seek to give away its own case, by an investigation of the actual condition and needs of our manufacturing industries, and by a revision of the Tariff in accordance with those needs? Why should it help to substitute a Protective Tariff which would command the support of all reasonable people, for one which provoked antagonism in every quarter? Nothing is so useful to the Free Trader as a good string of tariff abuses. They are the stock-in-trade of that party. It did nothing then to get rid of them. It will do nothing now. It will be delighted to see the Protectionists following the same line of inaction, and thus leaving the door open for other snap measures of "tariff reform," after the model of Mr. J. S. Moore's Quinine Bill.

If the measure should be put off for the present, this will cause a delay merely. Mr. Garfield is committed to the revision of the Tariff by a competent commission. In the interest of that measure, he resisted the snap measures which were before Congress at the last session. He enraged those who wanted the duty taken from wood pulp, by declining to give his support to that measure until he should learn how it would affect our manufacturing interests. He declined to support alterations in the Tariff because they were favored by a certain set of newspapers. Although merely a private member of the Committee of Ways and Means, he was felt to be the principal obstacle to the "little Free Trade" programme of our snap-reformers. What he did as a member of Congress foreshadows his course as President. He will lose no opportunity of urging this matter on the attention of Congress, and thus awakening such a movement of public opinion in the matter as will leave that body no choice. He will vindicate his consistency by insisting on action of the right sort, just as he resisted action of the wrong sort.

We do not know what is the strength of the party of inaction among the Protectionists in Congress. We do not even know the name of any one person that favors that policy. We trust and hope that it is not a large one. We equally hope that they will give heed to the renewed declarations of the Industrial League and of the Iron and Steel Association on the subject. If they do not, they will be guilty of what would be both a blunder and a crime.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, December 15, 1880.

THE principal Congressional events of the week are the passage by the Senate, in a modified form, of the bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter, all the Republicans voting against it; the failure of the Democrats in the House to carry through their scheme of passing the concurrent resolution relating to the electoral count, which, however, is only postponed until the Democrats can muster a quorum and the beginning of the debate on the funding bill, reported from the committee of Ways and Means. No other business of public importance has been done.

SENATE.

Thursday, December 9.—The Senate passed a bill providing for the sale of the remainder of the reservation of the Confederated Ojibwa and Missouri tribes of Indians in the States of Kansas and Nebraska, the lands to be sold to actual settlers, and the proceeds invested for the benefit of the tribes. The Senate also passed a bill to secure the safe keeping of money paid into United States courts, providing for its immediate deposit with the Treasurer of the United States, or in some designated depository of United States money. The bill extending the time for filing claims for horses and equipments lost by men and officers during the war, was called up by Mr. Plumb of Kansas, who advocated its passage. The original limit of time expired in 1875. Mr. Thurman of Ohio opposed the measure, saying it was unwise to open the door at this late day to new claims on account of the war which ended fifteen years ago. Without disposing of the bill, the Senate went into executive session, and, when the doors were opened, adjourned until Monday.

Monday.—Mr. Hamlin of Maine was excused from further service on the select committee to examine the several branches of the Civil Service. Mr. Vest of Missouri introduced a resolution instructing the select committee on the Civil Service to report upon the propriety of filling vacancies in the regular service, above the rank of sergeant, by promotion or by appointment from the navy. The motion was amended, giving the instruction to the committee on Military Affairs, and including the army with the navy in the matter of appointments. It was then adopted. The bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter being taken up, Mr. Randolph of New Jersey submitted the amendment, of which notice had been given. The bill, as reported from the committee, relieved Porter of his disabilities under the judgment of court-martial, and restored him to the army, with rank and pay as if he had not been cashiered, and pay for the period since his dismissal. The amendment removed his disabilities and authorized the President, in his discretion, to appoint him as an officer on the retired list, with rank not higher than Colonel, and without pay for the period of his disability. Mr. Edmunds of Vermont moved to amend, by limiting the time within which the President might act to one year, which was not agreed to. The bill was debated by Messrs. Hereford of West Virginia, Carpenter of Wisconsin, Thurman of Ohio, and Voorhees of Indiana, the point of controversy being whether or not it was competent to authorize the President to appoint a particular person to an office when he had power under the Constitution to make appointments to all offices of that grade. The matter was not disposed of before the adjournment.

Tuesday.—Mr. Edmunds of Vermont introduced a bill for reviving and continuing the Court of Commissioners for the Alabama Claims. On motion of Mr. Logan of Illinois, the Senate called on the War Department for copies of correspondence between General J. M. Schofield and Major A. B. Gardner, in regard to the board of officers inquiring into the case of Fitz-John Porter. On motion of Mr. Morrill of Vermont, the committee on Post Offices and Post Roads was directed to inquire whether telegraph lines largely interfere with the work of the Post Office Department, and whether telegraph service should not be placed exclusively in the hands of the general Government. Mr. Saulsbury of Delaware gave notice that on Thursday he should ask the Senate to take up the resolution declaring Mr. Kellogg not entitled to a seat as Senator from Louisiana, which, owing to the death of Mr. Spofford, the contestant, and the appointment of another in his stead by the Governor of Louisiana, gave rise to some remarks. Consideration of the Fitz-John Porter bill was resumed and, after the adoption of an amendment offered by Mr. Dawes, the bill was passed, the final vote being, yeas 38, all Democrats; nays 20, all Republicans, except Mr. Davis of Illinois. As passed, the bill authorizes the President, within eighteen months, and not afterwards, in his discretion, by and with the advice of the Senate, to appoint Porter to the army, with no higher rank than Colonel on the retired list, and without pay or compensation for the period since his dismissal in January 1863.

Wednesday.—Ten Senators only were present when prayer was offered, and the Vice-President waited for a quorum to appear before ordering the journal to be read. Mr. Pendleton of Ohio introduced two bills designed to promote a reform of the Civil Service. One provides for competitive examinations for appointments except of the highest and lowest grades of service, and for promotion on grounds of merit and seniority. The other prohibits assessments on employes of

the Government, for political purposes, with penalties for violation of the law. The bill devoting a part of the proceeds of the sales of public lands to public education was supported by Mr. Burnside of Rhode Island, Mr. Morrill of Vermont, and Mr. Brown of Georgia. The bill was then laid aside without action, and an old claim for compensation for compiling the slave code of Kansas when that State was a Territory, was taken up. The feature of the debate was a sharp passage between Senator Vest of Wisconsin and Senator Ingalls of Kansas, regarding the character and deserts of John Brown. Mr. Ingalls said, the flag that John Brown dropped at Harper's Ferry was picked up four years afterwards and carried to Appomattox.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, December 9.—The bill making appropriations for fortifications and their armament for the year ending June 30, 1882, was reported from Committee on Appropriations. A bill was passed authorizing the New York Chamber of Commerce to erect a monument commemorative of the first inauguration of George Washington as President, on the front of the Sub-Treasury building in New York. When consideration of the resolution regulating the electoral count was about to be resumed, Mr. Fernando Wood of New York inquired how much longer the Republicans proposed to obstruct the public business by discussion of that bill, and after being called to order by Mr. Conger of Michigan, and withdrawing his remark, Mr. Conger replied that whenever Mr. Wood was ready to offer the funding bill for consideration the Republicans would be ready to postpone the pending discussion. Mr. McLane of Maryland spoke in reply to the speech of Mr. Robeson of New Jersey. Mr. Lapham of New York commented severely on the course of the Democrats in pressing action on the resolution at this time. He said he was impressed with the conviction that there is some undeveloped or unannounced purpose in pressing the measure at this time. Mr. Herbert of Alabama supported the resolution, and in the course of his speech declared that no man this country has produced has more of the unqualified respect of the Democrats than Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Newberry of Michigan opposed the resolution.

Friday.—The Speaker submitted a letter from the Secretary of State, covering a communication from M. Léon Gambetta, President of the Chamber of Deputies of France, proposing an exchange of documents between that body and the House of Representatives. The session was passed in consideration of private bills, of which seven were passed. The House adjourned until Monday.

Monday.—Hon. Ezra B. Taylor, member-elect from the Nineteenth District of Ohio, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. James A. Garfield, was sworn in, and his credentials were referred to the committee. Under the call of States, for the introduction of bills and joint resolutions, on leave, for reference, a large number were offered. There arose a debate over the proper reference of a joint resolution declaring that the established policy of the United States was hostile to the construction of a canal through the Isthmus of Panama by means of foreign capital, under the auspices of, and through a charter from any European government. It was referred to the committee on Foreign Affairs instead of to the committee on Inter-oceanic Canals, which was believed to be hostile to its adoption. A resolution reported by Mr. Cox of New York, from the committee on Foreign Affairs, establishing an exchange of documents with the French Chamber of Deputies, was adopted; also one thanking the widow of President Thiers of France, for volumes of her husband's works presented to the library of the House.

Tuesday.—The Speaker appointed Messrs. Scales of North Carolina, Cook of Georgia, and Williams of Wisconsin, as visitors to the Military Academy. A resolution requesting the Postmaster General to report to the House the facts relating to the detention in the Washington Post Office of illegally franked mail matter was adopted. A bill to incorporate the Nicaragua Canal Company was introduced by Mr. Norton of New York, and referred to the committee on Commerce. Consideration of the concurrent resolution regulating the electoral count being resumed, Mr. Bicknell of Indiana moved the previous question on its passage. The Republicans declined to vote, and there appeared not to be a quorum present. Mr. Bicknell then withdrew the resolution for the present, and gave notice that he would call it up in January, as soon as there were one hundred and forty-seven Democrats (a quorum of the House) present. The House, after some contest about the order of business, went into committee of the whole on the state of the Union, for consideration of the funding bill reported by the committee of Ways and Means. Mr. Warner of Ohio opposed the Committee's bill and favored paying off the debt. Mr. Chittenden of New York supported the bill, maintaining that it was impossible to pay the debt as it matured.

Wednesday.—Mr. Belford of Colorado introduced a bill for the retirement of all legal tender notes of less denomination than five dollars. The bill approving the agreement between New York and Connecticut, with regard to a disputed boundary line, was passed. The Senate bill granting a pension of \$100 a month to Mrs. Julia S. Tyler, widow of the late President Tyler, was passed. The House went into committee of the whole on the Fortification Appropriation bill. Mr. Salter of Indiana explained the provisions of the bill, which was discussed through the session. All amendments were rejected and the bill passed.

SONNET.

How often nature mocks us when we grieve.
 How small we are, how small to bear the pain,
 The burden of the sorrow that has lain
 So heavily, so long without reprieve.
 We bear it and we pass it, when we leave,
 To those who still have strength and who remain.
 They bear it and they pass it, but in vain—
 For none deliver less than they receive.

Just as it was that day four years ago!
 The calm glad Alps as then are white with snow,
 The tinted Estérel all shadowy;
 The same fruit ripens in the groves below;
 The silent shore still listens to the sea,
 And still the sun shines on eternally!

LOUIS LAROSE.

La Croix des Gardes, Cannes, 1880.

BY UNITED STATES PATENT.

"EF I cud hev' patented the grin the littel cuss giv' him," says Artemus Ward in one of his lectures, "my fortin wer' made." Mr. Ward is speaking of his moral 'possum's actions during an interview with one of the Deacons of Baldinsville, yet he refers as naturally to the Patent Office as might Mr. Edison himself. In doing so, however, Mr. Ward merely demonstrated his claim to the title of an American citizen, for if every man in the United States has not taken out a patent, in order to prove his right to the franchise, as Mr. Sala would have us believe, he is almost certain to know some one who has. It is really extraordinary, when one thinks of it, how intimately the Patent Office is connected with our daily life. There is scarcely anything we use into the manufacture of which patents do not enter in one form or another. In fact, were a man to resolve not to patronize American inventions, he would be reduced to a diet of cabbages—cultivated with a pointed stick—and to clothing made out of skins cured by himself, cut with a sharp flint and tied together with thongs cut from the hide itself. The causes which have led to this wonderful activity in invention among our people are not hard to find. The enormous disproportion existing between the amount of raw material to be handled and the supply of labor, has forced us to devise labor-saving machinery. Necessity in our own case has truly been the "mother of invention." The progressive nature of our institutions, and the freedom of thought which has been encouraged amongst us to the utmost, have combined to create a mental state which has made invention and the reception of inventions possible. There is no complaint here of an inventor being in advance of his age. Let a man only demonstrate the possibility of doing a thing never heard of before, and he will find no lack of men to believe in him. The man with a new machine for doing a specified piece of work, is not met with the cry, "My father did it as I do it, and what was good enough for him is good enough for me."

Familiar as the results of the work of the Patent Office are to the majority of us, there are many who do not understand the *modus operandi* of getting a patent. The Government has wisely made the procuring of patents not only cheap, but, always supposing the applicant has something new, excessively easy. An inventor is not required in this country, as he is in some of the European States, to become acquainted with mysteries along side of which those of Eleusis were child's play; nor is he constantly encountering vexatious technicalities which "give him pause." Given the invention, which must be "new and useful," the Government requires the inventor to file a petition for the patent; an oath that he is, as far as he knows, the original inventor; specifications containing a full and very clear description of his invention, such a description, in the words of the Rules of Practice of the Patent Office, "as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains, to make and use the same;" drawings which show clearly the machinery, if machinery it be; and, when it is practicable, a model which can be worked. The object sought by the Government is two-fold. First, the protection and consequent encouragement of the inventor; and second, the preservation of the invention for the use of the people at large after the patent has expired. The Government does not demand any great amount of technicality in the documents constituting an application for a patent. As a matter of course, it requires that the same forms shall be used in the oath and petition, as well as in a part of the specifications, but these forms are plainly given in the Rules of Practice, and the Commissioner of Patents will mail the little volume containing these, free to any applicant.

Mrs. Glass's celebrated advice about the cooking of a hare, may be changed, in the case of a would-be patentee, into, "First, invent something." The Government requires that whatever the invention is, it shall be something new: either absolutely, as in something that was never heard of before; or relatively, as in the new combination of two or

more known things for a specified purpose. The sewing machine needle having an eye near the point, was an example of the first; the sewing machine itself, in that it was a combination of known forms of mechanism, was an example of the second. The tests applied by the examiners of the Patent Office, as to the newness of an invention, are very severe. Not only is it compared with the many thousands of patents granted in this country, it has to stand a comparison with all of the known inventions of other countries. The Patent Office reports of all governments that issue such a publication, are searched. If the invention stands these tests, it is then examined as to its usefulness. The last of these is an objection seldom made by an examiner, for the simple reason that applications are not often put in for things which would be of no use at all. Patents, however, are often refused for machines prejudicial to public morals, as, for example, gambling contrivances.

The invention having been perfected, the specifications have to be written out. As we have said, these must contain a description of the invention, clear, full and expressed in the plainest possible manner. In addition to the description, the specifications contain the claims, and these are by far the most important part of the application. It will be noticed that we have passed over the petition and oath. These, being merely necessary forms, do not call for extended comment. With the specifications, or rather with the claims, it is different.

Upon these are founded any suits undertaken in Court, they specify what the office grants—in short, they are the life of the patent, if we may be allowed a rather bold figure of speech. In the examination of a patent during a suit, the description, drawings and model are used to illustrate and exemplify the claims. The very language dictated by the office, to be used as a part of the specifications, points out their importance, "What I claim and desire to secure by letters patent, is," etc. It is in the drawing up of these that patent solicitors are of most value to inventors. The writing of a description, to anyone who thoroughly understands the subject and has some practice in the use of words, is not much of a task. But to express, in clear language, the *idea embodied in an invention* is not an easy thing. If anyone of our readers thinks that it is, let him try upon the first patented article he comes across and—change his opinion. And this is precisely what drawing up a claim means. We have known patent solicitors to study over the wording of a complicated claim for several days. The attention which this part of the application receives from the examiner in charge of the case, justifies the care taken with it. As long as the description is clear, the examiner is not apt to find much fault with it. The claims, however, must not be too broad, or they will involve too much and thus bar the way of future inventors; nor, on the other hand, must they be too narrow, or they will not cover the invention. It is not often that an inventor has such a simple claim allowed as that given to Clark when he put in, "I claim a screw terminating in a gimlet point." Of course, such a claim as this was simple to draw up and would stand in any court.

The specifications having been written, the drawings have to be made. The office requires that they shall be of uniform size, 10x15 inches, made upon stiff calendered paper, and that all lines shall be clear and absolutely black. There is an excessively good rule now in operation in the Patent Office. In cases where new drawings are required, owing to technical errors in those first sent, the imperfect ones go to the examiners, in order that there shall be no delay in the examination. We think it would be well for the Commissioner to extend this rule to the point of not requiring new drawings from applicants unless the patent is to be granted. As things are now, the office makes new drawings at actual cost. It maintains a large staff of draughtsmen for the convenience of inventors, and in this, as in everything else connected with its workings, shows itself animated by a spirit of great liberality and a desire to make everything as easy as possible for the applicant. The demand then for the fees for new drawings when the patent is ultimately refused, is one which is not in consonance with the spirit in which the institution is carried on, and is often a severe tax upon the inventor. As the examination into the application can take place with the old drawings, and, under the present rule, does so take place, the work of the office would not be injured by the proposed extension. With the various papers the applicant is required to send in a model, when one is practicable. This model must not exceed one foot in length, breadth or height.

The application being complete, it goes through the office in its order, this being determined by the date of the filing of the papers. By special request of one of the heads of government departments, applications for patents may be taken up out of the regular order. Such a request is not often made, as may be supposed. When the application has successfully passed the examiners, the patent is granted by the Commissioner. This gives to the inventor the sole ownership of his invention within the limits of the United States, for a period of seventeen years. His invention has become property in a legal sense, and he may treat it exactly as he would any other kind of property; he may sell it, lease it, mortgage it, or give it away. If it is of great value, he will make his fortune if he holds on to it, by royalty or any other means; or if it is worth nothing commercially, he will have lost his time and his money.

One word in conclusion about inventions. A would-be inventor should first convince himself that there exists a want which a machine or process will satisfy. He should then analyze the known method of doing the work, in order to get at the mechanical principles involved in it. He should remember that the simpler the invention the greater chance there is of its success. Let him not be discouraged by the multitude of inventions which have been made, for if he has got hold of a new thing the Patent Office will assure him of the fact. He should, if possible, build a working model and see that his invention will do what he wishes it to before he attempts to patent it. And finally, let him be sure that as long as there is a want felt there is room for invention, and that if there is one thing more certain than another it is that everything has not been done yet.

CREMATION IN AMERICA.

IF ever incineration should come into vogue in America it would be merely, in some sense, a revival—not really a novelty; for this method of disposing of the remains of the dead was employed by many of the aboriginal races and tribes. Cremation was practiced, though by no means generally, among the ancient Mexicans, the usage being a privilege reserved for people of distinction. To this day some of the Indians of Guiana burn their dead, after having dressed, decked, and painted them with care. Funeral urns containing ashes have frequently been found in tumuli; Domenech found the usage prevalent among the Shoshones and the Indians of the Bay of San Francisco; it is adopted by the Tahkalis; it has long existed among the Alaskan savages. "Those whose bodies are burned," says a clergyman, who, a few months ago, witnessed a case of cremation at Fort Wrangel, "are supposed to be warm in the next world, and the others cold. The Diggers burn their dead, at least occasionally. Among our own people, cremation is not an absolute novelty, since the body of Henry Laurens, so conspicuously identified with the struggle for independence, was thus disposed of, as was that of Henry Barry of Marion. The subject, however, was first generally discussed about six years ago, at which time, also, it may be remembered, it was urged in England that suicide be legalized in certain extreme cases, as where persons were suffering unextinguishable pains from incurable disease. The first incineration of the modern period, took place at Washington, Pa., in the not very scientific crematory built by the late Dr. Le Moyne. The subject was Baron von Palm, an old German, who died May 20, 1876, and received a Theosophic funeral in the New York Masonic hall, with the chanting of Orphic hymns, and much reading of extracts from the Vedas. His body was embalmed until the crematory at Washington could be completed, and on the 8th of December was burned, the occasion being decidedly prosaic. Before the next body was cremated two cases of incineration had been recorded. Dr. Charles F. Winslow, of California, having insisted that his body should be burned, and his executors carrying out his wishes at Salt Lake City, and a German resident of New York, one Julius Kircher, having, in the fall of 1877, burned the corpse of his child in his own factory furnace. The second cremation at Washington took place on the 15th of February, 1878, when the remains of Mrs. Benn Pitman, wife of the well-known Cincinnati stenographer, were given to the flames. The process lasted but an hour and three quarters, as against the two hours and twenty-seven minutes employed in the case of Baron von Palm. In 1879 there were two cremations at Washington. On the 16th of October the body of Dr. Julius Le Moyne was burned, after religious services had been conducted at the family mansion by the President of Washington and Jefferson College, and a Presbyterian clergyman, and just two months afterwards, that of Mr. Charles A. McCreery, son of a prominent dry goods merchant of New York City. The young man was a devoted Christian, a Presbyterian—and in the note to his parents, conveying his wish, expressed his aversion to all the ordinary methods of burial. A day later, at New York, was admitted to probate the will of Mr. Christian Frederick Funch, a leading ship owner and agent of that city, in which it was prescribed to the executors that they should embalm his body, enclose it in an iron coffin, and despatch it in the care of a trustworthy agent to Milan; the ashes, after the process of incineration had been completed, were to be buried at Copenhagen. Mr. Funch's objection to having the process performed in the United States, was a very natural one—"it cannot be done," he said "without parading in the papers," and he might have added that, as a rule, the reports in the press were not remarkable for that dignity and decency which most people desire to see associated with the disposition of the remains of the dead. On the 7th of February last, the body of Miss Dolly Hartman, of Pittsburg, was burned at Washington. She was a very pretty and well educated girl, and had several times expressed a desire to be cremated, as she had a horror of being buried alive. She was a Swedenborgian. The body was placed in the crematorium, dressed in white, with, around the neck, a collar or wreath of lilies of the valley; the process lasted about two hours, which may be regarded as about the average time required. On the 9th of March was cremated the body of Dr. Samuel Hahn, of New York, a gentleman of Jewish origin, who had, however, lapsed

from the faith of his fathers into Radicalism. On the 12th of May, the remains of Charles Gustave Poetz, of Brooklyn, N. Y., were incinerated, in accordance with his request that they should so be disposed of, and the ashes removed to his native place in Germany. He was a Free-thinker. In two other cases of death, which happened at this time, less attention was paid to the requests of the dying. James Southwick, a New York jeweller, by religious profession a Roman Catholic, expressed a desire to his physician and his wife, that his remains should be disposed of by burning, but the idea was repugnant to Mrs. Southwick, and she gladly availed herself of the fact that he had not absolutely insisted on his wishes being carried out, but had left their fulfilment dependent upon her approbation. Peter Weller, a wealthy manufacturer of Woodside, N. J., who shot and hanged himself in April last, left, among his papers, a request that his body should be cremated, but his relatives and friends decided, after consultation, instead of complying with this request, to follow his wish expressed some months before, and place his body beside that of his daughter, in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The trustees of the Le Moyne crematorium, it may be added, decline to permit the incineration of the bodies of those that do not come to their death through natural causes. Cremation is the method employed by the medical professors of the University of Pennsylvania for the disposal of bodies that have served their purpose in the dissecting room, and about 150 are burned every year.

These, with the case of Mrs. Lucia Noyes, of Warren, Pa., which took place November 25, are all the instances of incineration that we have been able to find recorded in America. It will be observed that there have been more cremations this year than in any previous one, and we fancy that the practice will grow in popularity. At least a hundred notifications have been made by persons now living of their intentions to dispose of their remains by burning whenever they die, and in several of the cases already alluded to, the request that their bodies might be reduced to ashes dated back to the time when the subject was first discussed or the earliest cremations took place. It will be seen that though the majority of persons cremated came from the metropolis or its vicinity, there were cases furnished by other sections of the country. They were of both sexes, and of all ages; of several different nationalities and of all sorts of belief or unbelief, Theosophists, Swedenborgians, Protestants, Hebrews, Lutherans, Free-thinkers. They were actuated by different motives; some by dislike to the ordinary methods of sepulture, others by fear of being buried alive, others by the conviction that the process was the most rational and convenient and so should be commended by their example. There was, we believe, a cremation society in New York; there was another at Elmira, among whose managers was the Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, but neither of these organizations has of late given any sign of life. Nor have we heard anything of the Indianapolis society further than that it had been formed, with a large membership, mostly composed of Germans. There is, however, a prosperous association at St. Louis, where, by the way, the idea of incinerating the remains of the dead has been vigorously combated by the Catholic press. Mr. Louis Becker, the proprietor of the Weehawken Cemetery, announced not long ago his intentions of building a crematorium with a chapel and columbarium, but the project does not seem to have ever gone beyond the province of intention. Nor have we been informed that the gentlemen who endeavored to secure the passage of a bill legalizing cremation in Illinois ever pressed the matter with much seriousness.

Looking over the whole field, therefore, while we consider the conclusion warranted that there is a great deal of feeling favorable to the cause of cremation latent in our larger cities, especially among "advanced" thinkers and citizens of foreign origin, we consider the conclusion equally warranted that the practice will never—at least in our own day and that of our direct descendants—become general. If crematories should be erected in the great cities they would almost without a question be steadily employed. The process of cremation has the advantage of economy, a most important one in these times when the clergymen of the Roman Catholic and other churches are protesting against the excessive and expensive display which people in moderate circumstances can ill afford, but regard as indispensable. To such crematories would certainly resort those who from conviction favor the process and desire its adoption; they would also be patronized by those desirous of having their ashes preserved by their families or returned to the land of their birth. Eccentricity and sentimentality would further swell the number of incinerations to a decidedly large total. Whenever this stage is reached one objectionable feature will necessarily have vanished—the unfeeling and indecent publicity which now is given to almost every case of cremation; and when this vanishes there will disappear also much of the prejudice with which the process is at present viewed. Fully one-half of the bodies to be cremated will be those of women, for the statistics of Lodi and Milan bear out the theory that one would naturally frame—that to the feminine mind the idea of incineration and the preservation forever of the ashes of the body is more attractive than that of inhumation, with its ghastly accessories and the possible horrors of premature burial. In all Christian countries, however, the prejudice against any new method of disposing of the

bodies of the dead will long continue all-powerful, and its strength will be in the inverse ratio to the popular intelligence, the diffusion of education, and the spread of free thought. Cremation will make more rapid headway in Germany, England and the United States than in France, Spain and Canada. England occupies an exceptional position among the countries where the process has been seriously contemplated, because of the fact that her population is dense and her church yards and cemeteries are crowded and, from their situation and condition, afford a formidable menace to the public health. This very urgent reason does not exist in the United States, where, besides, are cemeteries so designed as to afford perfect safety to those living in the neighboring cities, and at the same time to remove all ghastly thoughts and suggestions. Indeed, this very habitude of the citizen of the nineteenth century, of familiarizing himself with inevitable death and making bright and cheerful the spot where he and his shall lie, is not the least significant of his traits, and one that deserves more recognition and investigation than it has received at the hands of philosophers and scientist.

CONFEDERATE LITERATURE: II.

THE leading daily journals published in the South were those issued at Richmond, New Orleans, Charleston, Augusta and Atlanta, Georgia and Memphis. The New Orleans papers were lost to those in other parts of the Confederacy by the capture of that city by the Federal forces in the Spring of 1862. The fall of Memphis, shortly after, drove the *Memphis Appeal*, one of the best journals in the South, from that city, and from that time it pursued a wandering existence, moving about from point to point as the military situation compelled. Another roving paper was the *Chattanooga Rebel*, one of the brightest and most sparkling journals in Dixie. It was small in size, but full of good things, and was a great favorite with the army. It followed the movements of the Western Confederate army, keeping as close to the front as possible, falling back with commendable promptness whenever a "change of base" on the part of the army rendered such a movement necessary. It was owned and edited by Henry Watterson, the present editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. This was, we believe, Watterson's first venture in journalism, and it was a well-deserved success. The Charleston papers soon lost the commanding influence they had held at the opening of the struggle, due probably to the fact that the interest of the war was transferred to other points, and Charleston was compelled to depend upon the seat of government for news and inspiration.

The chief interest of Confederate journalism centred in the newspapers of Richmond. These were the *Daily Inquirer*, the *Daily Dispatch*, the *Richmond Whig*, the *Daily Examiner*, and *The Sentinel*. *The Inquirer* was the oldest of all the city journals, having been founded by Thomas Ritchie, the father of the Democratic party in Virginia. At the time of secession it was owned and edited by a firm, of which O. Jennings Wise, son of Governor Henry A. Wise, and Major Nat. Tyler were members. It was at that time a very influential paper and an ardent advocate of secession. Both Wise and Tyler entered the army at the outbreak of the war, the former being killed at Roanoke Island, and *The Inquirer* was thus deprived of its best writer. It lost its influence as the war progressed, and fell off in circulation. It maintained its existence throughout the struggle, and its office and fixtures were destroyed in the great fire at the evacuation of the city by the Confederates, in April, 1865. *The Dispatch* was, and is still, the local paper of the city. It was owned by J. A. Cowardin & Co., and was edited by the late Oliver P. Baldwin, one of the most gifted of Southern journalists. It was established long before the war, and was a success from the first. It filled in Richmond the place occupied in Baltimore by *The Sun*, and in Philadelphia by *The Ledger*. It enjoyed a corresponding degree of influence, and was perhaps the most influential journal in the city, as it was certainly the wealthiest. *The Dispatch* was more fortunate than its contemporaries. It generally managed to appear with four full pages, when the other dailies were forced to put up with two pages, or a half sheet. It made money steadily, but lost its office in the fire of 1865. It sought new quarters and resumed publication very soon after the close of the war.

The Whig was the old-time organ of the Whig party. It was owned by Captain W. M. Elliott, of the Richmond Grays, and Captain John C. Shields, of the Richmond Howitzers. The best known editor of *The Whig* was Robert Ridgeway, a particularly bright spirit of Southern journalism. *The Whig* strongly opposed secession previous to the withdrawal of the State, but upon the outbreak of hostilities both of its proprietors entered the army, and rose to prominent positions. *The Whig* exercised but little influence during the war. *The Examiner* was owned and edited by John M. Daniel, by far the most gifted Southern journalist of his time. He was in many respects a most remarkable man. He was born a gentleman, in the Southern sense of the term, but a very poor one, and his youth was marked by a constant struggle for existence. He was enabled by the assistance of a wealthy relative to obtain an education, but the aid was granted in a manner to make

the proud, spirited young man feel his dependence. He more than repaid the debt at his death, by leaving all his property to the family of his benefactor, expressly, as he declared, to wipe out the obligation; but the bitterness of spirit his dependence occasioned him exercised a marked and unhappy influence upon his after life. Upon reaching manhood he stepped at once into public sight. He was a member of the Council of State, under the old Constitution of Virginia, and was appointed, by President Pierce, Minister and Plenipotentiary to Turin, then the Capital of the Kingdom of Sardinia, which position he retained under Mr. Buchanan. He had already acquired an interest in the *Richmond Examiner*, and was able to lay by enough from his salary as minister to pay for his purchase. When the war began he was its sole proprietor. He took a deep interest in the political struggle that preceded the war, corresponding regularly with his paper. Immediately upon the secession of South Carolina, he resigned his office abroad, and returned to Richmond, where he resumed the personal control and direction of *The Examiner*. He was a brilliant and powerful writer, and a born journalist. It is no wonder then that after his return *The Examiner* showed a marked improvement. He was heartily in favor of a dissolution of the Union, but, unlike many of his contemporaries, he perfectly understood the nature of the struggle that would follow, and his chief aim was to induce the people of the South to prepare for that struggle. Unable to repress his martial ardor, he entered the service, and in one of the battles before Richmond, in 1862, received a severe wound in the arm. This terminated his military career, and from that time until his death he devoted himself to his paper. His aim was to make *The Examiner* the most powerful journal of the South, and in this he was entirely successful. It was the most extensively read, the most strongly praised, and the best abused newspaper of Confederate times, and it was independent in tone even to the verge of haughtiness. Mr. Daniel differed widely with the Confederate authorities as to the proper mode of conducting the war, and the weakness and incompetence so often shown by the government at Richmond drew forth his wrath and contempt. He regarded the course pursued by Mr. Davis and his advisers as fatal to the success of the South, and did not hesitate to express his opinion in very vigorous English. This drew upon him the hostility of the government officials, and made him many enemies; but *The Examiner's* influence was not lessened thereby. It was always popular and widely read in the army, and its editorials set men to thinking. Mr. Daniel's fearlessness in denouncing what he considered public abuses once or twice involved him in personal difficulties with the people he denounced. In one of these he received a slight wound at the hands of an official whom he had boldly accused of theft. His criticisms of Mr. Davis were sharp and powerful, and were generally so just and so well-deserved that they stung the Confederate President keenly. The whole government was bitterly hostile to Daniel, and there was at one time a rumor that it was intended to suppress *The Examiner* by the strong hand of military force. This coming to the ears of the editor, he boldly defied the Confederate Government to lift a hand against his paper. *The Examiner* acted as a wholesome check upon those in power, and earned the thanks of the people, whose support it certainly had, by its at all times unshrinking attitude. If Mr. Daniel had his enemies, he was not without his friends, and these were warmly attached to him. To the few whom he admitted to the circle of his friendship, he was amiable, cordial and affectionate. A more charming companion at table could not be found. In spite of his cynical smile and his keen, cold gaze, he was warm-hearted and generous. His charity was unostentatious, but it was princely. In appearance, he was a strikingly handsome man. A little above medium height, he had a compact, well-made figure, and carried himself with an easy grace. His skin was of a clear, dark olive, and his dark eyes brilliant and pleasant in expression. His hair, beard and moustache, which he wore closely trimmed, were of a deep black. The eyes had a clear, straight-forward gaze, and the mouth was firm, but the expression was sarcastic. His dress was simple, but faultless. The man's whole appearance was indicative of a quiet consciousness of power. People said that his expression was sardonic; but it was rather that of one who had studied men deeply, and who estimated them at their true value. Though conscious of the difficulties in the way of the South, and believing that the Confederate Government was continually sacrificing its chances, Mr. Daniel never abandoned the hope of success. He died on the 30th of March, 1865, in the belief that Grant's army was being driven back from Petersburg. Perhaps it was best that his life should end then. He would have borne hardly the failure of his cause. We have dwelt thus upon him, because he was the great editor of the Confederacy. He would have been an ornament to the press of any section. As it is, he stands alone in the history of Confederate journalism. *The Examiner* numbered many able writers among the contributors to its columns. Among others were Mr. Ould, William M. Burwell, Patrick Henry Aylett, and Edward A. Pollard.

The Sentinel was established by Messrs. Smith, Baily & Co., some time after the commencement of the war. It aimed to be, and was generally considered, the organ of the Confederate administration. In consequence of this there were many tilts between it and *The Examiner*, the government organ generally coming off second best.

LITERATURE.

"ENDYMION," AND ITS AUTHOR.

THE ex-Premier received \$50,000 or \$60,000 for the manuscript of "Endymion"—the gossips are not agreed as to the precise figure, but it is admitted to have been something decidedly "steep"—and the Longmans are reported to have ordered another story of him at the same price. The fact cannot fail to enlighten the ignorant as to the value of a name in literature, for there can be nothing more certain than that if "Endymion" had been offered to the enterprising London publishers by an unknown author, their reader would have summarily rejected it. And their reader would have been right, since the story is of the flimsiest possible construction, the characters are merely lay figures, and the style is too frequently slipshod and tawdry. Between the two covers of the book there is no passage that thrills and possesses the reader; there does not move through its pages—or, rather, there is not projected on its pages—the shadow of one character in whose fortunes the reader takes a human interest. Flimsy and inartistic construction has always characterized the novels of "Disraeli the younger." His maxim is, "Whatever ought to be, is," and he overcomes the difficulties in development and situation, which perplex meaner and more conscientious storytellers, with a simple wave of the hand. An American dramatist, in a play recently produced in New York, finding it necessary, for the purpose of bringing it to an intelligible conclusion, that the villain should come on the stage and recite the motives and methods of his villainy in the hearing of the hero, brought the villain on and made him reel off his story. This is quite in Lord Beaconsfield's style. The grandfather of Endymion and Myra Ferrars dissipates their patrimony, and they are left orphans without means or friends. The girl thereupon resolves that she will make her brother's fortune. He has a petty clerkship in a second-class public office—*voilà tout*. At once Myra becomes companion to a rich banker's daughter and marries the Premier of England. The young clerk is enabled to go into society by the opportune intervention of a rich and discerning tailor who unfolds his theory of the advantages of dress in politics and society, and insists on clothing Mr. Ferrars on credit, no pay to be accepted till the young man has become a member of the cabinet. When it becomes necessary in the course of human events that Endymion should enter Parliament, to enable him to do so and avoid being classed as an adventurer, an unknown benefactor sends him £20,000 in an envelope, and the thing is done. When it is thought advisable that Endymion should take a prominent place in the cabinet and direct the foreign affairs of the nation, his brother-in-law is killed off, which not only enables him to obtain the succession, but permits his sister to marry a foreign sovereign. And at the time when we find out that Adriana Neuchatel was the benefactress, and proper regard for courtesy and the *convenances* prescribes that Endymion shall return her the £20,000, why—Lord Montfort dies, and his immensely wealthy widow marries Endymion, and as Adriana takes to herself a husband there is a beautiful opening for an absolutely unknown donor to present her with a £20,000 set of jewelry. What could be more simple, satisfactory, and unnatural?

Understand us, reader! We frankly admit that truth is stranger than fiction, and all that. We know that for each of these incidents we can find a precise parallel in Lord Beaconsfield's own career. The late Mr. Henry Padwick once lent young Disraeli a considerable sum of money on the security of his "ability and genius," just as Talleyrand pressed a hundred thousand francs on Bonaparte, when the latter, on the eve of his Egyptian expedition, was in desperate impecuniosity. But in each case, the man making the investment was of unusual sagacity, and when it was made the individual invested in was known to be of unusual capacity. Bonaparte had quelled the Sections with his "whiff of grapeshot," and Disraeli was already in Parliament and, as the author of "Vivian Grey," one of the most talked-of men in England. Mrs. Brydges-Wylyams sent him £1,000 notes in envelopes and left him a fortune, but he was already a man of mark, and in this case, as in his marriage with Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, we must allow for the natural interest a bright and romantic young man would inspire in a susceptible elderly woman. But in Endymion Ferrars, as he is presented in Lord Beaconsfield's novel, there is nothing to excuse Mr. Vigo's investment, or Adriana Neuchatel's preposterous generosity, or Lady Montfort's passion—if it can be said of any of Lord Beaconsfield's characters that they ever so far forget themselves as to display anything so human. He is merely a good-looking young man of fair capacity, who lets his sister push him up the ladder, but who has neither initiative, nerve, or brilliancy of his own. We take no interest in him, and we will wager long odds that no one else could in a normal and natural condition of things. Let us illustrate our point by comparing Endymion with Thackeray's Pendennis or Clive Newcome, or with Dickens's David Copperfield, none of which are characters of marked personality. Still they are flesh and blood, they live and move like ourselves, and make mistakes, and hope hopes, and have their joys and sorrows, even as we. It is not profaning one of the truest and most beautiful phrases of Holy Writ to say that we are touched with the feeling of their infirmities. But Endymion and Myra do not exist for us; there is no atmosphere enveloping them; their revels ended, they vanish and leave not a rack behind. If anyone wishes to make perhaps a more effective comparison, let him read "Endymion" and then "The Small House at Allington," whose hero also is a petty clerk in a second-rate government office.

It is at once the disadvantage and the advantage of one who writes a novel like "Endymion" that he must place its scene in a limbo—a shadowy border-land between fact and fiction, where you almost recognize the characters, and partly identify the *locale*, and have an approximate idea of the chronology, and occasionally are vouchsafed a glimpse of a historical action. It is not at all like Thackeray's "Esmond;" it is not in the least like Dumas's pseudo-historical novels; it is not like Scott, or Hugo.

A pleasant land of drowsy-head it is,
Of dreams that float before the half-closed eye—

like those morning dreams in which the furniture and the shadows mingle with the characters in the book one was reading when he fell asleep, and the man or event of the hour is blent with a fantastic vision with which, despite the incongruousness (which cannot be accounted for), he or it will be completely identified and perpetually associated. In this odd land—or Limbo, to use a truer phrase,—there is neither pleasure nor pain; anachronism is accuracy; the unexpected invariably comes to pass—as had all along been expected; and all the imperfections and variations of the human machine and real life are corrected. The atmosphere is always clear; everybody is rich, and beautiful, and has a title; and the story sweeps on nicely to the sweetest of *denoûments*, which was glittering in sight from the very outset. Pain and passion, merely human incidents and qualities, cannot enter there. Death occasionally visits this Eden, but not tragically—only to remove the less interesting characters when the process of absolute elimination is necessary. Love, polite and decorous and placid love, is always crowned with fortunate marriage, and if there is an Adriana as well as a Lady Montfort, and Endymion cannot marry them both (and as suicide or death from a broken heart or perpetual maidenhood is ridiculously out of the question), up comes another eligible character and marries Adriana. Every Jack has his Jill,—that is to say, every Lord John has his Honorable Miss Gillian. In "Endymion" we come across the son of an office-keeper who has married the daughter of an insolvent milliner, and takes lodgers, but it is only just to remark that his lodgers are country members and foreign princes, and that in due course he enters Parliament, and his wife's sister marries a nobleman and is instantly hailed by all Tory society as its leader. Indeed, once we are even introduced to so plebeian a person as the foreman of a factory, to say nothing of a tailor, but the foreman gets elected to Parliament, and so does the tailor, who also makes an immense fortune out of railroads and obtains a baronetcy. Everyone becomes rich and marries a beauty, a fortune or a title, and lives happy ever afterwards, as Lord Beaconsfield tells us, with the stateliness and unction of a fashion reporter or a writer in the "Annuals" and "Books of Beauty" of a generation ago. Ah, golden land, where people "devour" "succulent" *entrées*, and "quaff the choicest wines;" and ride about—or "sweep along"—in carriages drawn by "four splendid dark chestnuts," "the grooms sitting with folded arms of haughty indifference;" and send each other £20,000 in envelopes, and have pure Grecian profiles and pouting lips—or, if their noses are not faultless, are gifted with noses of piquant irregularity that are fully entitled to be described as "gems!" We have often wondered whether it was Lord Lytton's penchant for characters of aristocratic origin and unearthly beauty, which commended him to Mr. Disraeli as his choice for Viceroy of India!

But if we cannot look to Lord Beaconsfield for living personages and well-constructed or natural stories, it is claimed that in the pages of his books we shall find incisive portraits of his contemporaries in society and statesmanship, and the fruits of a long life of observation and experience. But do we? Herr Brandes' book is a conspicuous example of the absurdity of the theory that from passages here and there in his works of fiction we can reconstruct the author, that most remarkable figure of modern English history. Since the days when he wrote the "Revolutionary Epick" and declared that "sedition was his forte," what a distance he has travelled! This much we think that we see in Lord Beaconsfield,—and we believe that the general drift and spirit of his curious course and his as curious literary works bear us out: he is a believer in a female sovereign of the Stuart race, with one minister, backed by a cabinet of ciphers and an unquestioning party; he is fond of showy politics, such as will impress lookers-on and magnify the central figure; he delights in surprises, in all of which there should be an element of contempt for existing prejudices and precedents; he likes power for the mere pleasure of exercising it, but is as far from realizing its responsibilities as he is from desiring to profit personally by its opportunities. He made his Queen an Empress, and his private secretary a peer, and he "educated" his party into accepting a Reform bill at ten minutes' notice. His view of public life is not that of Gladstone or Bright; nor yet is it that of the leaders who aim to build up and maintain a party; still less is it that of the men who engage in politics for sheer love of the excitement of the game. A man of principle or of ordinary loyalty to his party would never have taken some of the steps taken by Lord Beaconsfield. And a man who was earnestly devoted to his party or who took an absorbing interest in politics would never have survived the cataclysm of last spring. When Mr. Gladstone's ministry fell in 1874, the great Liberal leader was overwhelmed with agony and despair, and made haste to retire from the field he had lost, and to turn with savage earnestness to making war on the Vatican, until the conviction came to him that the country was menaced by an iniquitous foreign policy. We dare swear that last April's defeat did not cost Lord Beaconsfield an hour's sleep. It was a surprise to him, but the ludicrous nature of the spectacle of the great Conservative party destroyed without a moment's warning, must have instantly commended itself to him, and he doubtless thought, "Well, it will be interesting to see Salisbury and Northcote get out of this mess!" To him the perplexity of his late colleagues is as indifferent—if not quite as positively diverting—as that of Mr. Gladstone. The rage, the despair, the regret, the self-accusation of a party leader who has destroyed his party and lost the game of his delight—none of these Lord Beaconsfield could feel. Had he been in Pitt's place when Austerlitz was fought, instead of dying of a broken heart, he would have been found a few months later on the opposition benches, taunting the new government with the unsuccessful consequences of his own foreign policy.

We do not, therefore, see why we should seriously seek in the pages of "Endymion" for light upon contemporary political history. He never has lost an opportunity of discreetly but decidedly expressing his contempt for Toryism—that is about all we know. When we come to the question of the church, is Nigel Penruddock, the mouthpiece of the real Lord Beaconsfield,—who dated his letter "Maundy Thursday," and dissolved

parliament in Passion Week? We have dialogues between Endymion and the Radical Job Thornberry—if anything is to be inferred from the superior force and geniality with which the Radical presents his views, these are the views of Lord Beaconsfield himself, as everyone knows that they are not. Nor can we say that we are particularly impressed with the profundity of the author's utterances on general questions of art, literature, society or politics. There is nothing in them that is new, and in their form they are infinitely inferior to the epigrams with which his speeches abound. Indeed, for us, and we think for all appreciative readers—Disraeli, the orator, (especially in opposition) utterly eclipses Disraeli the novelist. Are we met with the declaration, "If there is no really salient phrase in Endymion, don't you remember that immortal saying in Lothair, 'Critics are the men who have failed in literature and art'?" It is an enjoyable phrase, and none the less so because Shenstone had said, more than a century before, "A poet that fails often becomes a morose critic: weak, white wine makes excellent vinegar," or because, a century before Shenstone (as Dryden tells us), Sackville had expressed the same thought in similar words.

The value of Lord Beaconsfield's sketches of his contemporaries would be unquestionable if they were at all finished, or if the pencil was not guided in so many instances by personal malice. For instance, Vigo the tailor is a compound of Poole the tailor and George Hudson, the railway King; Prince Florestan contains traits of King Alfonso as well as of Napoleon III.; Nigel Penruddock borrows his personality from Dr. Wiseman as well as from Cardinal Manning; there is something of Gladstone in Endymion's father, and again a passing likeness in Hartensins, complemented and complicated with traits of the late Lord Chancellor Westbury and the late Lord Chief Justice Cockburn. It is, of course, necessary to mingle with hints and half-traits that are recognizable, other characteristics that will blur the portrait and relieve the artist of responsibility. But in this process the value of the sketch is utterly destroyed, and the only pleasure derived is that of identifying the person hit off and guessing why he was transferred to the book's pages. We can not call this a particularly elevated or elevating kind of intellectual recreation: it is a good deal like toiling to discover what is meant by a personal item concerning the elopement of a gentleman well known in certain circles with a lady whose, etc., etc. But there are two portraits which we are sorry to find in Endymion, as we were sorry to find an unjust caricature of Professor Goldwin Smith in Lothair. Mr. Disraeli owed Mr. Milner Gibson a grudge for his action in May, 1855, in the matter of the proposed censure of government for its conduct of the war and the peace negotiations, but that did not justify presenting him as unflatteringly as he is presented as Mr. Jorrocks, and for the unfriendly portraiture of Thackeray as St. Barbe, with his envy of Gushy (Dickens), and his unnatural servility, there is even less excuse, although Thackeray did poke fun at Disraeli the younger, in his burlesque, "Codlingsby." We know that Thackeray was jealous of Dickens, though he paid many a noble tribute to his great rival,—we know that though he lived to declare Pickwick to be "like a glass of good English ale," he mercilessly satirized it in *Fraser*, as the work of a penny-aliner whose prose would not be sold were it not for the pictures. But Lord Beaconsfield might have let that pass; he might have forborne to aim a blow at the dead that could wound none but the unoffending living; by neglecting to dwell upon the infirmity of one noble mind, he might have led us to forget the conspicuous infirmity of his own. This rancorous and long-cherished enmity is,—like his passion for recording scenes of wealth and display, and his curious combining of the dreamer and the practical man—a survival: it is the nature of the Oriental in the lonely being who in his childhood knew nothing of the charm and discipline of home life and school life, and who in his manhood has stood aloof from close associations and friendships, and has walked his own strange, stealthy, splendid course.

ALL ROUND THE YEAR:—Verses From Sky Farm, with which are included The Thirty Poems issued in Illustrated Form in the volume entitled "In Berkshire With The Wild Flowers," by Elaine Goodale and Dora Read Goodale: The poems of the Goodale sisters, before unpublished in book form, are in this volume collected under the sub-titles *Early and Late*, and *Harvest-Home*. Many of them, we suppose, have appeared in periodicals at different times. The poem called *The Whip-poor-will* and the *Poet* first appeared in the columns of THE AMERICAN. There are many delicate and graceful bits of verse in the collection, which will be new to most readers. These have all that *spirituelle* quality, that fresh and naïve beauty, and tender passion that characterized the early poems. The following stanzas from the poem called *Field* are a fair illustration:

"Sing! the lavish Autumn waits,
All the harvest wealth to bring.
She is at her palace gates,—
Sing!
She shall fling her banners free,—
Golden rods shall one by one
Light their torches by the sun,
For the harvest revelry!

Sing! th' outlying forests too
Hold her splendor, answering,
Kindling signal-fires anew,—
Sing!
Hill and hollow blossom gay,
Field and forest, brake and brier,
Wearing holiday attire
For a legal holiday!"

There is a feature of some of the poems on flowers by Elaine Goodale that perhaps has not been dwelt upon by admirers of the young poets; *i. e.*, their gentle mysticism. Looking into the beautiful faces of the tiny flowers, the ethereal and delicate nature of this young girl finds, with Wordsworth, something too deep for tears,—a something which stirs the bosom with a wild shudder of mingled aspiration and regret. Witness the following stanzas from the piece called *Bloodroot*:

"I seem myself the panting earth,
The Spring within me newly born;
I feel thee from my breast upturn—
I grapple with a larger birth.

My narrow senses downward hurled,
In upper air I blindly grope—
I strive to reach a living hope,
And blossom in the other world!"

May we be pardoned if we suggest to the young poets that they, either jointly or singly devote their powers to some larger work, selecting, perhaps, some native Indian legend that would be naturally treated as a pastoral interspersed with lyric? The volume typographically is as pleasing as the verse within. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

THE volume entitled *Persephone and Other Poems*, by Mrs. Charles Willing, is certainly an acquisition to our literature. The poetry is not all of equal merit but *Persephone* and *Hesperus* are poems of high rank. The first (*Persephone*) was almost too sacred for publication. But its great beauty redeems it from the charge of having passed beyond the pale of art on account of the intensity and painfulness of the grief displayed. It is in the heroic measure, and is the threne of a mother for a daughter passed away,—hence the title, referring to the beautiful Greek legend. The time is Spring when the arbutus springs:

"Ah! not more swiftly they
Drooped, withered, died, fell from the loving clasp
Of my enfolding hand, than thou, beloved,
Didst vanish, leaving me bereft, alone!
The sweet, brown eyes, filled with love's dewy light,
Gazed wide at some fair vision far away;
And blanching suddenly, the tender rose
Faded, and left the cheeks all marble pale;
The soft lips, gently parted, breathed no more,
But one white arm, in passionate embrace
Flung around my neck, expressed thy mute farewell.

Then the air grows bright with a "sweet radiant presence," and *Persephone* speaks out of her Paradise words of comfort. The verse is well handled, the movement being pure, free, and musical. *Hesperus* is a fine ballad that describes the feats of Bernardin and his steed at the Cape of Good Hope. They together rescued a drowning crew. In her sonnets Mrs. Willing is not so successful as in her other poems. *The Head of Profile Mountain* is, however, strong and ringing verse. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, 1880. 95 pp.

THE HON. B. G. NORTHRUP, Secretary of the Connecticut Board of Education, is so well-known to the country by his indefatigable labors in the departments of Education and rural improvement, that it is only necessary to call attention to the recently issued pamphlets of his on "*Tree Planting, Forestry in Europe, and Other Papers*," and "*Rural Improvement*." One can but devoutly hope that the persistent endeavors of Secretary Northrup to call a halt to the insane destruction of American forests, as well as his efforts to awaken an interest in the subject of beautifying and making picturesque our villages and cities, may meet with success. It is, however, to be feared that the efforts of one man will not serve to awaken our people to a sense of the evils of forest extermination. Europe takes an interest in forest planting. Hundreds of books are annually issued there upon the subject, and there are many prosperous schools of forestry.—Tuttle, Moorhouse & Taylor: New Haven, 1880.

ONTI ORA, a Metrical Romance, by Mrs. M. B. M. Toland, is a ballad of the Catskill Mountains. *Onti Ora* (clouds of the sky), is the Indian name of these mountains. The subject of the poem is love, jealousy and death. The illustrations by W. L. Shephard are passably good. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, 1881. 117 pp.

THE little brochure on *The Boston Public Latin School*, reprinted from the *Harvard Register*, and published at Cambridge, Mass., by that indefatigable worker, Mr. Moses King, will be read with interest by many an alumnus of the famous old school. The author, Mr. Henry F. Jenks (who is now engaged in editing a Catalogue of Masters and Pupils of the school), has compiled from various sources material, and given it here in the form of a connected narrative. It may not be generally known that the school is soon to be removed from Bedford street to the new city High School building on Dartmouth street and Warren avenue.

AN anonymous book entitled *Beaulieu*, is a society novel, the scene of which is laid in or near the Highlands of Scotland. It has the merit of freshness and vigor in its descriptive portions, reminding of William Black's novels. The opening chapter contains a spirited description of a fox hunt. There are too many foreign phrases in the book, which are unnecessary unless there is no equivalent in the native tongue. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, 1881, 262 pp.

WANDERING THOUGHTS AND WANDERING STEPS, is the title of a volume of European travel "By a Philadelphia Lady." It only covers the ordinary beaten tourist's track, but is a pleasant book for those unfamiliar with European sights. The first half of the title seems to us ambiguous and weak, and an apologetic and deprecatory preface is always a mistake. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1880.

PENCILLED FLY-LEAVES. A Book of Essays in Town and Country. By John James Piatt. This first prose venture of the poet will hardly add to his reputation. He is certainly not at ease in his new rôle. His prose is not smooth, and is sometimes ungrammatical. In the essay called *The Spirit of a Ghost*, the author gets his we's and he's rather mixed up. He had better have used the honest "I." There is a great deal that is pleasant in the book, and the apt quotations show that Mr. Piatt has roamed in choice pastures. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1880. 16mo. 200 pp.

THE very valuable new descriptive catalogue of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., is a handsome octavo, containing in alphabetical order a complete list of their publications, with an index both alphabetical and *raisonné*. An excellent feature of the catalogue is the unusually full amount of information given about each work; the contents of many are given *in extenso*, and critical estimates from the best writers and journals are appended. Thirty-two charming wood-cuts are appended—those from the large subscription edition of Longfellow's poems being designs of especial beauty, by Hallock Foote, W. H. Gibson and others. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 4 Park Street, Boston, and 21 Astor Place, New York, 1881. 250 pp. Price 15 cents.

DRIFT.

—The *Penn Monthly* for December has an excellent table of contents, including a pleasant paper on "Social Science in the streets of Philadelphia," by the editor; "Art China, Keramically considered" by W. de Beauvoir Fryer; "Professor John Stuart Blackie and the Highlanders," by John Murdock; and a poem, by John Arthur Henry.

—An authorized "Key to Lord Beaconsfield's novel of *Endymion*" is in circulation, which contains several inaccuracies or omissions worth correcting. Sidney Wilton is Sidney Herbert (Lord Herbert of Lea); Florestan is Napoleon III., his triumphal progress, though it is taken to resemble that of Alfonso XII., of Spain, is identified sufficiently by the mention of the air written by his mother, Queen Hortense having composed "Partant pour la Syrie"; Agrippina is Queen Hortense herself, and it is not necessary to conclude that any traits of the ex-Empress Eugenie or of Isabella II., were added, since (though Mr. Algernon Swinburne doesn't seem to know it) besides Nero's mother, Agrippina, there was Nero's grandmother Agrippina, much beloved by the Romans; Endymion is a sort of ideal Benjamin Disraeli; his sister Myra is a creation of the fancy, who becomes in turn Lady Palmerston and the Empress Eugenie; some of their father's traits are those of Gladstone; Lord Roehampton is Lord Palmerston; the Count of Ferrol is Bismarck; Nigel Penruddock is Cardinal Manning, with some traits of Cardinal Wiseman; Mr. Vigo, afterwards Sir Peter Vigo, is compounded of Poole the tailor, and George Hudson, the railway king; the Neuchatels are the Rothschilds; Adriana being the present Countess of Rosebery; Dr. Comely is not Bishop Wilberforce ("Soapy Sam") at all, but Professor Jowitt; Job Thornberry is Richard Cobden to the life, and the English editors, who take John Bright as the original, should read the fourteenth chapter of Justin McCarthy's history; Hortensius has some traits of Gladstone, some of Sir Alexander Cockburn, and some of Lord Westbury; St. Barbe is Thackeray, with an infusion of Mr. G. A. Sala; Gushy is Dickens; Bertie Tremaine is Lord Houghton (formerly Mr. Moncton Milnes); Mr. Jorrocks is Mr. Milner Gibson; Lord Montfort is Lord Melbourne; Lady Montfort is a much idealized Viscountess Beaconsfield; Zenobia is a compound of Lady Holland, Lady Waldegrave, and Lady Jersey; Lord Waldershare is Lord Strangford; the Duke of St. Angelo is the Duke of Morny, and Sir Frauncey Scrope is Sir Francis Burdett.

—The Toronto papers report that *Endymion* was put on sale in that city on Saturday, that many hundred copies were sold before nightfall, and that Sunday morning the churches were half empty!

—Several letters have reached THE AMERICAN, complaining that the bindings of many recent books have lost their color, owing to some destructive quality in the paste employed or fault in the dye of the cloth. It is a pity that in so small a matter book publishers should not be more careful, as the appearance of a shelf full of books so bound, after six months possession, is lamentable in the extreme.

—One of the most successful imitations of art decoration is that of stained glass, by means of paper printed in oil colors in stained glass patterns, and applied with varnish and paste to ordinary windows. The effect is most excellent, there being no difference apparent to the casual eye, not even the actual difference between transparency and translucency. This imitation is rapidly coming into favor, and adds largely to the decorative effect of a room.

—John B. Piet, the Baltimore bookseller, has purchased the copyright of the "Acta et Decreta" of the Baltimore Plenary Council.

—The Illustrated Catholic Family Annual for 1881 is gotten up in a creditable manner. The rubrics are in handsome Gothic type, and the historical sketches of great men illustrated by very good portraits. New York: The Catholic Publishing Society Company, No. 9 Barclay Street. 144 pp.

—The account of the pending divorce of the Count and Countess Hatzfeldt (the latter an American by birth), announced some weeks since, is pronounced inaccurate by the German press. The cause was not the rules of the Prussian court, but property considerations; and is, moreover, merely legal and formal, the still happy pair continuing to live together in Wiesbaden.

—The first instalment of Edwin Arnold's new poem will appear in the January number of the *International Review*. Its title will be "The Iliad of India." It is founded upon "the unparalleled Mahābhārata," and describes the last journey and entry into heaven of two Sanscrit princes, a record of whose lives the Mahābhārata purports to be. The original receives pretty much the same reverence in India that the Old Testament does among the Jews.

—The London *Globe* gives a place to an odd story that may do to laugh over between the walnuts and the wine. It says: "The English and American residents of Paris have determined to keep their Christmas holiday in a strange and eccentric manner. An immense Christmas tree is to be set up in the circus in the Champs Elysées, with presents for the members of the two different colonies. The price of admission is to be 20 francs each person. There will be two principal prizes. The one a young lady, 'whose charms and wit made her the belle of every rout and soiree during last season.' Half of the money taken at the doors will be handed over to her as a wedding portion, and if she is won by a bachelor he will be compelled to marry her, while in the event of her falling to a married man, those who have taken tickets in the lottery are to be allowed to draw again. The other principal prize consists of a good-looking young fellow, the winner of whom will have the remaining moiety of the receipts to compensate her for giving up her liberty.

—When the Princess Frederica was married, by the way, a prudent member of the House of Commons announced his intention of objecting to the naturalization of her

husband unless there was some assurance given that no grant would be asked, an assurance which was promptly forthcoming. The temper of the British tax payer is not so patient as it has been, and if the cause of monarchy has lost ground in England of late years—and it undoubtedly has—the Queen's niggardliness has had much to do with it. Prince Albert, in his life time, was sufficiently close, but the Queen has bettered his example. The story is true of the Empress of Austria, faint with hunger after a visit to Windsor Castle, having to ask the station master for a plate of cold beef and a bottle of ale, an incident productive of no good feeling, as the Empress has gone to Ireland to hunt every winter in spite of the Queen's broad hint that such a visit was not favorably regarded. By her persistent seclusion since her husband's death, the Queen has shunted most of the expenses connected with her station upon the Prince of Wales, and, instead of reimbursing him, has looked to Parliament to increase his allowance. No minister would be bold enough to suggest such a step. Already, too, the rapid promotion of the Duke of Edinburgh in the navy has been criticized severely, and military journals of the highest class declare positively that when the Duke of Cambridge retires the command of the army must cease to be a royal preserve. Any amount of fun, too, has been poked at the Queen for her invariable present of an India shawl whenever a grand marriage takes place. In point of fact, Her Majesty receives annually a large number of these shawls from Indian potentates by way of tribute or present, and so the gift costs her nothing. Only once did she fail to give a bride of noble birth an India shawl; then, as the lady was particularly distinguished, she received two India shawls.

—Messrs. J. W. Randolph and English of Richmond, Va., write to correct an error that recently appeared in these columns, *i. e.*, that no history of Portugal in English was extant. Messrs. Randolph and English possess a copy of a history of Spain and Portugal, with analytical and chronological index, by Dr. Dionysius Lardner, published in Philadelphia, in 1835. This, however, hardly merits the title of a history, as it was only an encyclopedic article belonging to the Cabinet Encyclopedia published by Dr. Lardner.

—A Hebrew Reader with the title "Lema'an Vilmedu," comes to us from Max Stern, Chicago, 84 Fifth Avenue. It is in three parts, *i. e.*, words, easy grammar and reading. The type is clear, a thing essential to comfort in reading Hebrew.

—Numbers 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Vol. I of the periodical called the *Humboldt Popular Science Literature*, contains a work on the Amazon River, by Henry Walter Bates (Assistant Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society of England), and other excellent papers on Science. New York: J. Fitzgerald & Co. 143 Fourth Ave. 80 pp.

Cincinnati seems determined to head the list in matters historical and bibliographical. The series of historical works on the Ohio Valley, published by Robert Clarke & Co., have long excited the admiration of the learned. We are now surprised by the appearance of a royal 8vo. on the *Bibliography of the State of Ohio*, being a catalogue of the books and pamphlets relating to the history of the State, with collations and bibliographical and critical notes, together with the prices at which many of the books have been sold at the principal public and private sales since 1860, and a complete index by subjects, by Peter G. Thompson. It is a sumptuous work, published by subscription, and is an honor to the State. It is printed on thick, toned paper; initial letters, chapter-headings, and tail-pieces in red vignette, and wide margins. Many libraries have been consulted by the compiler during the eight years spent in the work. Fourteen hundred distinct titles are given, not including public documents. All the chief libraries appear in the list of subscribers, and will be enriched by the possession of the volume. J. G. Thompson. Cincinnati. 1880. 436 pp.

—The *Catholic World* for December presents a *menu* of the usual excellence.

—Mr. A. D. Anderson, author of "The Silver Country, or the Great South-West," has prepared a brief narrative of all efforts since time of Cortez to effect inter-oceanic transit across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The book will be published at once by A. S. Barnes & Co.

—Mr. Bradlaugh, if he is not desirous of emulating Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke in moving for a return of what the House of Hanover has cost England, proposes to attack another source of large expenditure. This winter he will call the attention of the House of Commons to the subject of perpetual pensions. The heirs of William Penn have since 1790 enjoyed a pension of £4,000 a year, which, to radical economists, seems a decided annoyance, seeing that Pennsylvania has long been out of the possession of England. The Dukes of Marlborough have received £4,000 a year since 1710, to say nothing of other benefactions, and the present Duke has a rent roll of £42,000 a year, so that England may be said to have discharged very fully her debt to the victor of Blenheim. The heirs of Nelson have had £3,500 a year since his death in 1806, but this pension was only granted for three lives. The Duke of Schomberg was killed in 1690 by an accidental shot from his own side; for 159 years his heirs received £4,000 a year, since 1854 the pension has been reduced to £2,000. The sums paid to the Dukes of Grafton and Richmond, Charles II's descendants by Lady Castlemaine and Louise de Querouaille, would, if invested at 3¼ per cent., have paid off the national debt. Until a comparatively recent date, the Dukes of Grafton had £9,000 a year from the excise, and £4,700 from the post office, while the Duke of Richmond now owns nearly 300,000 acres of land, and until a little while ago the family had £19,000 a year, a sum paid in commutation of the tax on coal granted by the Merry Monarch to his five-year old boy. It will be seen that Mr. Bradlaugh has a very interesting field through which to drive the plowshare of economy.

—The *Morning News* is a new penny paper at Portland, Me.

Mr. William Winter's volume of John Broughman's remains is ready, and we shall take occasion to consider it shortly. Mr. Winter has also nearly finished his volume on the Jeffersons, for the series of books on "American Actors," which Mr. Lawrence Hutton is to edit for James R. Osgood & Co. Mr. Hutton will be pleasantly remembered as the "Young Veteran" of the New York *Evening Mail* of half a dozen years ago. Among the other volumes of this series, those on "Edwin Forrest," by Mr. Lawrence Barrett, on "Charlotte Cushman," by Mrs. C. E. Clement, the writer on art, and on the "Books," by Mrs. J. S. Clarke, are now completed and ready for the printer. Mrs. Clarke has kept her MS. a little later than some of the others, to show it to Mr. Edwin Booth, her brother, now acting in London. Among the other volumes of the series in preparation are one on the "Furtons," by Mr. Benjamin E. Woolf, the author of the "Mighty Dollar," and another on "Rachel, Ristori, Fechter and Salvini," by Miss Kate Field. Among those in contemplation are one by Mr. Hutton himself, and another by Mr. J. B. Runion, of Chicago, one of the authors of "100 Wives." The series is to be similar in style and size to the "Englishmen of Letters," and illustrated where necessary.

FINANCE.

NEW YORK, December 15, 1880.

THE weekly statement of the associated banks of New York, which was issued last Saturday, probably exhibits a reasonably accurate condition of the banks on that date, but as the statement for the preceding week was so palpably misleading, a comparison with the statement of a fortnight previous will give a better illustration of the changes that have actually taken place in that time than can be derived from more recent figures. During the two weeks mentioned the loans were reduced \$19,565,700 and the deposits \$23,141,900. The specie imports of the two weeks amounted to \$6,961,660, of which the assay office paid out by checks on the Sub-Treasury, only \$4,673,168; about \$500,000 American coin was also received during the same time, thus making the total amount received by the banks during the two weeks, \$5,173,168. But the Sub-Treasury absorbed through the Clearing House, all the assay office checks and also \$2,920,357, which was taken from the banks' vaults. A wonderful amount of ignorance exists respecting the transactions between the assay office in this city and the Sub-Treasury, and a great deal is heard about money being locked up in the former. Appeals have been made to the Secretary of the Treasury that he should authorize the payment of 90% of the gold importations as they arrive, the balance to be paid when the real value is ascertained, but the Secretary declines to act without further authority in regard to the matter from Congress. At present, from three to five days elapse between the arrival of foreign coin and the payment for it by the assay office. But beyond this delay there is practically no such thing as locking up gold in the assay office, notwithstanding the fact that not a dollar of the foreign gold that has been received here during the current year, has left the assay office vaults.

The manipulators of the stock market have been greatly aided in their efforts to produce a stringent money market by the prevailing adverse winds which have delayed the arrival of vessels bringing large shipments of foreign gold. But this incidental agent cannot be expected to furnish further aid at present, and it remains with the banks to determine whether or not money shall command more than 6% per annum. It is positively known that one or two of the banks have assisted in producing an unnatural demand for money by refusing to make loans at the legal rate, although they have, later in the day, through the Stock Exchange, placed large amounts at a premium, and others are believed to be equally guilty. The misfortune is that some of our banks holding many millions of dollars on deposit, are heavy speculators in stocks and bonds, particularly the latter. During the past year they have made a great deal of money, but it is hardly a question as to whether the depositors, if they were acquainted with the facts, would leave large amounts at such great risk without more adequate compensation.

Tight money is the card which the "bears" of Wall Street play in the great game of stock speculation; Government refunding operations on a 3 per cent. basis is that which the "bulls" rely upon. The refunding question is at the moment the paramount topic of general interest in Stock Exchange circles. The foundation for the prevailing confidence in high prices of interest-paying securities is, of course, the general prosperity of the country, and, with special reference to the stocks and bonds of the railroad companies—which form the great bulk of the transactions at our Exchange—the unparalleled prosperity of the railroads. But the prices which rule at present would have little justification were it not for the difference to be derived from the returns of good railroad securities which pay from 5 to 8 per cent. in excess of the interest receipts from investment at par in Government bonds yielding only 4 or 3 per cent. In other words, investors may be willing to assume the risks and uncertainties which must necessarily attend, to a greater or less degree, the operations of even first class roads, and consequently any investment in their securities, for the sake of the larger rate of interest which is reasonably assured on their investment than that which may be said to be positively assured by the Government's issues. Greater profits are returned by 8 per cent. railroad securities, even at their present high price, than would be yielded in 3 per cent. Government bonds bought at par. As to the practical phase of the refunding question, the prospect that the new loan to take up the 6 and 5 per cent. bonds redeemable next year, will be issued at a rate of interest not exceeding 3 per cent. must be said to be encouraging. Mr. Wood's bill has reached the House of Representatives, and while, as yet, it has not progressed far in its passage, the friends of the measure are active and powerful, and the disposition of the House is said to be favorable to it.

There are many bankers and able financiers who question the policy of establishing a permanent loan on such a low rate of interest, on the ground that if at some future time the present favorable monetary situation should be changed, the bonds might sell in the market below par to the injury of the Government's credit. The national banks of this city are also disposed to doubt the success of such a loan, unless a reduction in the Federal tax upon them is made or the tax entirely removed. The banks hold nearly \$200,000,000 of the existing issues to secure their circulation, and they claim that if they are forced to choose between replacing them with 3 per cent. bonds or retiring their circulation, the latter course will be taken. The profits on national bank circulation are comparatively small, and with the Federal tax on deposits and circulation of 1 per cent. to be paid, the banks would not receive enough from 3 per cent. bonds deposited to secure circulation to pay for the trouble and responsibility of keeping it up. This is one view of the question. On the other hand there are many outside bankers who have the utmost faith in the ability of the Government to refund its entire redeemable debt on a basis of 3 per cent., and the success of the recent British Indian 3½ per cent. loan, the amount of which was more than subscribed for at 104, tends to confirm this opinion. The English press appears to be a unit in its belief that American 3 per cent. refunding would be entirely successful. Even the opponents, from principle, of a permanent 3 per cent. loan, are disposed to admit that at the

present time it could be negotiated successfully, and there is no doubt that, with the burdens of their taxation reduced contemporarily, the national banks would generously cooperate in furthering the success of the transaction.

Investors have shown during the past week a remarkably firm disposition not to part with their holdings under the stress of stringent money and "bear" attacks but to await coming events and especially the fate of the refunding question in Congress. More than that, within the last two days they have manifested a renewed disposition to increase these holdings. In the teeth of a new twist in the money market which was begun Saturday afternoon, the stock market gave way to the extent of only small fractions, and on Wednesday prices rose buoyantly and were not checked in their advance until near the close of business to-day. The net results of the week show gains of 2 to 5 per cent. in the stocks generally best esteemed, with handsome improvements also made by many of the medium and low priced shares. The only stocks, in fact, which are lower were affected by special causes. Railroad bonds also have developed renewed activity during the latter part of the week and much higher prices are recorded for them. Government bonds have about held their own on the basis of the improvement of 1 @ 2% which was made by the earlier issues at the close of last week, when the announcement was made from Washington of the agreement of the Ways and Means committee of the House of Representatives in favor of a 3 per cent. refunding loan. State bonds have been active for a few special issues and there has been an advance made by many of the Southern state issues.

Money was easy at 6 per cent. until Saturday afternoon, when fresh manipulation of the market began; on Monday and Tuesday commissions of 1-32 @ ¼ per cent. were paid in addition to the legal rate, but to-day funds were plentiful again at 6 per cent. plain.

The principal local financial event, so to speak, of the week, was the purchase of about one-third of the capital stock of St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad Company, chiefly from the president and vice-president of the company, by Mr. Jay Gould. This transaction means that Mr. Gould will virtually control the company and its road will be operated in harmony with the Gould Southwestern railroad system, instead of being subjected to hostility from the latter, as has been the case recently. The long predicted war in telegraph rates has not yet broken out, but the progress of events toward it may be indicated in to-day's general reduction, by the Western Union Telegraph Company of its charges to the basis established by the American Union Company. This week has also seen the opening of subscriptions to Mr. Gould's company for the construction of two new Atlantic Castles, to be operated in connection with the land system of the American Union.

All legislation having for its object the supervision of the railroads is liable to affect directly and very materially the market value of railroad stocks. The developments made last winter by an investigating committee of the New York Legislature created a genuine surprise to the public and were no doubt unexpected by many of the railroad managers themselves. Nothing was done by the Legislature, however, to correct the evils disclosed, but the information obtained was so well advertised that the public began to think, and has not yet stopped thinking. Recently Judge Black, of Pennsylvania, furnished the New York Chamber of Commerce with a long opinion in which he maintained that the railroads were public highways, and subject to State and National supervision and control as such. That opinion has called forth a reply from Mr. George Ticknor Curtis, in which he says:

—"I understand my learned friend, for whom I have great personal regard, to maintain that the railroads are public highways, the property of the people, in the same sense and to the same extent as a turnpike or a common road, built at the public expense and operated by public agents, is a public highway and public property. I understand him to have asserted this over and over, again in a variety of forms, and that it is the chief foundation of his argument in favor of legislative control over the contracts for transportation which the railroads make with their customers. It is a new doctrine to me that property, purchased with the private funds of a corporation, becomes public property because that corporation is a common carrier, or because the State has, for reasons of public benefit, authorized the corporation to acquire lands, by an exercise of the power of eminent domain, paying therefor a just compensation. The fundamental question is whether the Judge's assertion that railroads are public highways, and that the property in them is public property, is true. Judge Black is always logical; and if his premises are sound, I should assent to his inferences in regard to the right of the State to control the use of its own property. But I deny his premises, and consequently I reject his conclusions."

The question as to the rights of the public and of the railroads is one that will not be permitted to rest until it is thoroughly discussed and sifted, and probably not until both State and National law-makers try their hands at devising means for correcting some of the abuses that are known to exist. Some of the Western States undertook the task a few years ago of controlling freight and passenger charges, and they met with such marked success that they seriously crippled the roads running through those States; fortunately they were not so bigoted as to be unable to appreciate the damage done, and they soon modified the laws.

The Philadelphia Stock Market has been dull, and the fluctuations in prices have been within narrow limits. The closing quotations to-day show fractional gains in most cases as compared with a week ago, while Northern Pacific preferred is up one per cent., and Reading 1½. Since Mr. Gowen's departure for Europe, there seems to be a strong disposition to await further developments abroad, and possibly the result of the annual election in this country, before renewing active operations in that stock. The dividend of one per cent. by the Lehigh Valley Company was less than was expected, and the announcement of the action of the board of directors had a depressing effect upon the price of the stock. The conservative policy of the directors has, however, been recognized and the stock closed to-day without change from the price of a week ago. Pennsylvania has been only steady, and Northern Central rather weak.

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